

ADDRESSES
ON
THE BATTLE OF BENNINGTON,
AND
THE LIFE AND SERVICES OF COL. SETH WARNER;

Delivered before the Legislature of Vermont,

IN MONTPELIER, OCTOBER 20, 1848,

BY
JAMES DAVIE BUTLER,
AND
GEORGE FREDERICK HOUGHTON.

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Published by Order of the Legislature.  
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The following Resolution was adopted by the two Houses of the Legislature of Vermont, on Monday, the 23d of October, 1848 :

“ *Resolved*, by the Senate and House of Representatives :

That the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to request of the Rev. JAMES D. BUTLER and Mr. GEORGE F. HOUGHTON a copy of their able and interesting Addresses prepared for delivery before the “Vermont Historical and Antiquarian Society,” and pronounced before the members of the two Houses, in the Representatives’ Hall, on Friday evening last.”

In pursuance of this direction, the following letter was addressed to each of the gentlemen named :

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, }
Montpelier, Vt., Oct. 23, 1848. }

DEAR SIR :—By a Joint Resolution of the two Houses, this day adopted, we are directed to request you to furnish us with a copy for publication, of “the able and interesting Address prepared by you for delivery at the Annual Meeting of the Vermont Historical and Antiquarian Society,” and, in compliance with a previous Joint Resolution, pronounced before the Members of the Legislature in the Representatives’ Hall on Friday evening, the 20th inst.

Trusting that you will find no objection to the course indicated by the Resolution alluded to,

We are very respectfully, Your ob’t serv’ts,

D. W. C. CLARKE, Secretary of the Senate,
F. F. MERRILL, Clerk of the House of Representatives.

To which the following replies were received :—

From Mr. BUTLER.
WELLS RIVER, Vt., October 24th 1848.

GENTLEMEN :

Your letter, by direction of the Legislature of Vermont, requesting for publication a copy of the Historical Address which I recently delivered before that honorable body, has just been received. I am truly thankful for the sympathy thus shown with my humble endeavors to revive the memory of half forgotten incidents in our pioneer history, and shall, therefore, gladly comply with the request to commit my manuscript for safe keeping to the “art preservative of all arts.”

With respectful regard, Your obedient servant,
JAMES D. BUTLER.

To Messrs. D. W. C. CLARKE and F. F. MERRILL,
Committee in behalf of the Legislature of Vermont.

From Mr. HOUGHTON.
MONTPELIER, Vt., 24th October, 1848.

GENTLEMEN :

I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of your complimentary joint-letter of yesterday’s date requesting for the press, on behalf of the two Houses of the

General Assembly, a copy of the Address pronounced by me before the Members of the Legislature, at their request, on the evening of the 20th inst.

The address was prepared for delivery before the "Vermont Historical and Antiquarian Society," and with no idea that, under any combination of circumstances, would its publication be invited.

If it be thought, however, that any beneficial influence can be anticipated from its publication, it is cheerfully placed at your disposal.

I am, Gentlemen, Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE F. HOUGHTON.

Messrs. D. W. C. CLARKE, Secretary of the Senate,

F. F. MERRILL, Clerk of the House of Representatives,

MR. BUTLER'S ADDRESS.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN :—

The eye affecteth the heart. Hence all popular departments of knowledge appeal to our senses. Geography avails itself of maps; chemistry of experiments; mathematics of diagrams, and eloquence of gestures. No arguments are so convincing as those which address the senses of the people, except, perhaps, those which are addressed to their nonsense.

I think myself happy, therefore, in that I am to speak in the real presence of Eshcol clusters, plucked for us and brought hither by spies who have traversed the promised land of antiquarian research from Dan to Beersheba. I trust these trophies of the proudest day in our annals, though they have no tongues, will speak to you of olden times with most miraculous organ, even as the shell you hold to your ear whispers to you of the distant ocean, so that you will bear with me while I discourse touching shreds and patches,

“ Picked from the worm-holes of long vanished days,
“ And from the dust of old oblivion raked.”

Among the *sources* of information to which I have had recourse are the following:—Files of the Connecticut Courant; Vermont State Papers, especially the third volume of the manuscript collections by Stevens; Journal of Captain Stevens' journey to Canada in 1752; Lives of Stark, by his Son, by Headley and Everett; Sparks' edition of the Washington papers; Travels by Anbury, a Captain under Burgoyne; Burgoyne's Narrative; Madam Riedesel's Letters; the Hessian account of the battle by Glich; the History of Coos Country by Grant Powers. I have also enjoyed a personal conference with several veterans who saw all and shared a part of the conflict.

My cardinal object will be to describe THE BATTLE OF BEN-

NINGTON; but I must not fail to sketch, first, the train of events which led to that battle.

The evacuation of Ticonderoga, on the sixth of July, 1777, took place forty days before the battle of Bennington. That evacuation struck more terror through the Northern States than any event during the Revolution. Burgoyne's invasion through the Lakes *astonished* Washington, who had expected Burgoyne at Boston if any where. As early as the 27th of May, General Poor had written to Gates, and on the 30th of the same month Gates had written Washington, that the enemy were in force on Lake Champlain, and that Ticonderoga was untenable against a vigorous attack.* Yet it was a favorite idea with Washington, that the British would not operate in force from Canada during that campaign. Therefore, three weeks after Gates' letter, Washington wrote: "The garrison at Ticonderoga is sufficient to hold it against any attack." Officers from Canada, and Canadian spies, gave accounts of Burgoyne which proved accurate, but were received as incredulously as the prophecies of Cassandra.† Nine days before the taking of Ticonderoga, Schuyler thought that no serious attack on that post was threatened, but an attempt on New Hampshire, or the Mohawk.‡ I have seen no evidence that Washington had any faith in Burgoyne's invasion as a reality more than four days before the fall of Ticonderoga, and when on the tenth of July, nine days afterwards, he received intelligence that that fortress was taken, he refused to believe it. "I should rather suppose" he writes, "that if any accident has befallen us, it must have happened to the detachment of men from the New Hampshire grants under Colonel Warner, for we find from St. Clair's letters that he expected something from him."§ Nay, on the seventh, two days after Burgoyne had taken Ticonderoga Washington writes, "We are left to *conjecture* whether his appearance on the Lake was with a view to a real and serious attack or whether to amuse and draw our attention."||

As soon as Schuyler heard of the fall of Ticonderoga he wrote, "An event so alarming has not yet happened since the contest

*Stevens Papers, 153. I do not mention the volume, for as already intimated my quotations are solely from the third. †Washington Papers, IV. 467, 462, 466. ‡Stevens, 189. §Washington Papers, IV. 475, 486. ||Washington Papers, IV. 484.

began." In the letters of private men it was often said, "There are many long faces, for the key of North America is lost and gone; a very dark shadow is cast over a very bright prospect." In some States it led to a public fast. The New England troops in great part deserted St. Clair on his retreat from Ticonderoga, and ever afterwards viewed him and Schuyler as treacherous or incapable and imbecile.* For forty days after mastering Ticonderoga, the British seemed to be pushing their success in every quarter when the battle of Bennington broke their left wing, and forty days of reverses whelmed the strongest army ever sent to the Canadas in ruin. It is natural to ask, whence came these reverses? How shall we account for them? What turned victory into defeat? We shall find answers to these questions if we survey the *measures* of the British and Americans previous to the battle of Bennington.

Onward from the day that Ticonderoga yielded to his arms, Burgoyne's forces were divided and subdivided. Unvaried success tempted him to act by *detachments*. He could not but say to himself, "Those who have not dared abide my coming in the fortifications of Ticonderoga and Crown Point,—who vainly strove to conflict with my advanced guard at Hubbardton,—who would not risk a battle at Fort George, Skeensborough, Fort Ann, Fort Edward, and Stillwater—*where* shall they make a stand?—For me to pursue is to overtake, to overtake is to conquer, to conquer is to crush." Accordingly, besides the garrisons at Ticonderoga, Fort George and Fort Edward, six battalions were posted for three weeks in Castleton,† and a large force was sent to besiege Fort Stanwix,—scouts ranged the valley of Otter Creek,—Sherwood was dispatched to ravage the debatable ground between New York and Massachusetts, and finally Baum was ordered to Bennington.

Doubtless Burgoyne was familiar with the war maxim that an army must be like a man's hand—outposts and detachments resembling the fingers which are never so far separated and removed that they cannot, at any moment of need reinforce each other and concentrate into one fist. But that General was persuaded he

*Stevens Papers, 217, 522, 268. †Riedesel, 139.

should be cautious over-much, if he tied himself up by rules of circumspection in dealing with a foe so little to be feared. His instructions to Baum show that he believed it possible for six hundred men to march from the Hudson to the Connecticut, subjugating all the intervening region *without running any risk of loss*.— He also considered it “highly probable that Warner would retreat before Baum” and so far as appears, he had never heard the name of Stark.* Such was the tide of Burgoyne’s success, as to make Washington at times despondent, for on the seventh of August, nine days before the battle of Bennington, he wrote: “As matters are going on, General Burgoyne will find little difficulty in penetrating to Albany.”†

Burgoyne, as soon as he had seized Ticonderoga, issued a proclamation that towns should send delegates, and individuals come for themselves, and make their submission to his officer at Castleton on the 15th of July. Many tories did so, and in some cases were employed to work on roads, in others were furnished with protections insuring them safety against the scouts who scoured the valley of Otter Creek to plunder such as had not taken the oath of allegiance.‡ Tories sometimes nailed up their protections over their doors, as we do insurance plates, and they received red caps to wear as a badge of loyalty. They were called by the Yankees Protectioners. Their wish being father to their thought, they persuaded Burgoyne that the Green Mountain Boys were tories to a man, and thus doubled his contempt for his antagonists.

At sight of the wounded or panic-struck fugitives from Hubbardton, almost every whig house, west of the mountains and north of Manchester, was deserted. East of the mountains, the people of several towns crossed the Connecticut. July 21st, those of Thetford crossed into Lyme; for a party was expected to attack Number Four, and thence go up the Connecticut. Five days after the evacuation of Ticonderoga, in a letter from Stockbridge, Massachusetts, it was written: “We are greatly burdened with people who have fled from the New Hampshire grants.” It was feared that Manchester also must be abandoned. In a letter dated there, July 15th, it is said: “We learn that a large scout of the enemy

*Stevens Papers, 471. †Washington Papers, V. 23. ‡Stevens Papers, 305, 83, 89.

are disposed to take a tour to this post. The inhabitants with their families cannot be quieted without the assurance of the arrival of troops directly.”*

The plan for withstanding Burgoyne at *first* proposed, and acted upon for a while, was to concentrate all the American troops between him and Albany. Such a course, it was thought, might save Albany, protect the New York whigs from their tories, and subject the rebellious Green Mountain boys to such school-masters as would teach them fealty to New York. Accordingly, after the disaster at Hubbardton every continental soldier was marched out of Vermont as soon as possible, and Schuyler's first orders were, that the *Vermont* militia also should repair to his camp; though when remonstrated with, he allowed them to remain for the defence of their families, and said: “I had forgotten to give directions about the security of the people on the Grants.” Singular absence of mind! He had forgotten this whole State! † In the same spirit Schuyler refused to answer an official letter from Ira Allen, Secretary of our Government, without insisting upon addressing Allen as a private man, and refused to grant one man or one musket for the relief of Bennington. ‡ But in a few days, this project of resisting Burgoyne in front only was abandoned; for Schuyler and all his officers were so much distrusted by all New England, as holding offices they could not fill, and part of them so hated by Vermont as Yorkers, that no force sufficient to fight Burgoyne could be brought together.

The plan of arresting Burgoyne's progress by *harassing his flanks* was therefore adopted. Schuyler, who at first had contented himself with granting the Vermonters half a ton of powder, now sent Warner \$4000, and an order for whatever clothing could be procured in Albany. § He also ordered at first four or five hundred of Colonel Symonds' regiment, and then all the troops from New Hampshire which were then marching toward his camp, to turn their course towards Vermont and unite with Warner.— Moreover he dispatched Lincoln to take the command of the whole division, and that officer arrived in Manchester on the second of August, fourteen days before the battle of Bennington. Cushing's

*Stevens Papers, 277. †Ibid. 323. ‡Ibid. 261. §Stevens Papers, 261, 291.

Worcester County regiment arrived there two days afterwards, and many soldiers from New Hampshire were already there. Warner's corps, numbering, with Herrick's, 500 men, had for weeks made their head quarters there.* But Lincoln either lacked nerve and self-confidence enough to throw himself on Burgoyne's lines of communication with the Lakes, as Stark might have done ; or, as is more probable, he found his forces so ill-armed and unprovided with military necessaries, that he could not but view such a bold stroke as suicidal; and he therefore suffered the Massachusetts minute men to march to Schuyler. Lincoln, however, seems to have been meditating an enterprise of this sort,† when Stark crossed the mountains, took command of his brigade, and led it on to a still more brilliant and glorious achievement.

Had WARNER been in Stark's rank, I am persuaded that he would have equalled him in energy and success. The hero of Crown Point, foremost to relieve our army in Canada after the fall of Montgomery, Warner, issued a stirring appeal to all Vermont as soon as Burgoyne approached Ticonderoga, threw himself into that fortress, and had he been its commander, would never have fallen under suspicion of selling it through treachery, or fleeing from it through weakness. His services at Hubbardton have never been appreciated. But for them, St. Clair might never have escaped to Schuyler with a single soldier. Perhaps, also, Bennington might have been captured by a descent of Riedesel's battalions from Castleton, but for the bold front which Warner showed at Manchester, till the New Hampshire men had time to rally.

Flanking movements, such as Warner began and Stark continued, commended themselves to Washington. On the 24th of July he wrote to Schuyler: "You intimate the propriety of having a body of men stationed somewhere about the Grants. The expediency of such a measure appears to me evident, for it would certainly make Burgoyne very circumspect in his advances, if it did not totally prevent them. It would keep him in continual anxiety for his rear, and oblige him to leave the posts behind him much stronger than he would otherwise do."‡

But it was not until about the time of Stark's arrival, that the

*Stevens Papers 431, 432, 313. †Ibid. 534, 549. ‡Washington Papers, V. 23.

necessary munitions of war could be procured. The great magazine of war-like stores for all the North had been Ticonderoga, which was now in the hands of foes. As soon as the loss of that fortress was known, agents were appointed by the Vermont Convention to procure arms to the amount of £4000 sterling. Within a week those agents had been in Connecticut, and failing of success there, had set out for Massachusetts.* All arms found in the possession of Tories in Vermont were seized. Their property was also confiscated to fill the military chest.† One hundred and fifty stand of arms had been recently presented to Vermont by Massachusetts, and an equal number sold among the Green Mountains, by Charles Phelps of Marlborough, grandfather to a representative in this Legislature. Massachusetts had also furnished New Hampshire with five tons of lead and five thousand flints.‡ When news of the evacuation of Ticonderoga was brought to the Legislature of New Hampshire, the Speaker, John Langdon, thus addressed them: "I have \$3000 in hard money. I will pledge my plate for \$3000 more. I have 70 hogsheads of Tobago Rum which shall be sold for the most it will bring. These are at the service of the State. If we succeed in defending our firesides and homes, I may be remunerated; if not, the property will be of no value to me."§

Stark wrote from Number Four to the New Hampshire Council, that he needed kettles and cooking utensils. The answer was that "no kettles could be procured in New Hampshire, but an express had been sent to a place in Massachusetts where it was said *tin* might be bought." A week afterwards twenty-five tin kettles were procured and forwarded, though too late to be used before the battle.|| Of the eleven barrels of powder in the Fort at Number Four, nine had been condemned. The four cannon there were dismounted, and apparatus for putting them on carriages could not be procured.¶ Again, July thirtieth, Stark writes from his headquarters on the Connecticut: "I am informed that the enemy have left Castleton with an intent to march to Bennington. We are detained by the want of bullet-moulds, as there

*Stevens Papers, 288. †Here the Speaker exhibited the original MS. of one of the earliest decrees of sequestration, dated Bennington, in Council of Safety, July 28th, 1777. ‡Stevens, 298. § Life of Stark by Everett, 78. || Stevens, 386, 503. ¶ Ibid. 405.

is but one pair in town, and the few balls sent on by the Council go but a little way.”* *One pair of bullet-moulds for an army!* A light visible result significant of how many things not so visible. Even after the battle of Bennington, in all Stark's brigade, there was but one case of amputating instruments, there were no tents, and few axes, pails or canteens.† One particular of destitution, and the lamentation over it will be more likely to excite a smile in these days than in those. “There is,” writes Stark, July thirtieth, “but very little *rum* in the store here; if some could be forwarded it would oblige us very much, for there is none of that article in those parts where we are going, that is in Vermont.” O, that we could say so now-a-days! On the second of August, the answer of the Council to this pathetic appeal was: “Rum is not to be bought in this State”—that is in New Hampshire; as if No License had begun its reign before the time. A similar lack of strong drink may be inferred from the following certificate,—the original of which I read:—

BENNINGTON, March 14, 1778.

This may certify that there is due to Capt. Robinson sixteen gills of Rum.

WM. SHERMAN, *D. Commissary.* §

Amid such destitutions there would have been reason for despondency unless STARK, used to battles from his youth,—a man of iron will—last to quit his breast-work of grass and rail fences at Bunker Hill,—first of the van at Trenton,—the idol of the Granite State—would take the command. But this veteran, though no more passionate, perhaps, regarding punctilios, than most warriors from the days of the wrathful Achilles down to those of Leonidas Pillow, disgusted at the partiality shown to younger and inferior officers, had three months before, resigned and was tilling his farm. Message after message came to New Hampshire from outraged Vermont in this style: “When we are crushed and cease to be the frontier, you must be; there is no frontier and will be none, except where there are sufficient troops with arms in their hands to defend it.”‡ Moved by such representations, and having no con-

*Stevens, 386. † Ibid. 431, 432. ‡ Ibid. 386, 403. § Furnished me by the President of the Historical Society. † Stevens, 244, 313.

fidence in the officers on the Hudson, New Hampshire at length put its forces under Stark, leaving him *independent* of Schuyler, at liberty to act separately or in conjunction with the continentals, as he thought most for the public good. In five days after Stark was invested with these dictatorial powers, he was at Charlestown, on the Connecticut. In five days more he had sent reinforcements to Warner; in five days more he was himself approaching Manchester; in thirteen days more he had routed Breymann. Not without reason might he say: "*Veni, Vidi, Vici.*"

As we turn our thoughts to the action near Bennington, we naturally ask: Why was there such a depot of provisions there, as it was important for Burgoyne to sieze? The answer is, such a depot had been there established for victualing Ticonderoga, and was now kept up for supplying the wants of the forces under Schuyler to the West, as well as those under Warner and Herrick to the North.* Burgoyne had for weeks viewed this magazine with greedy eyes, and at length resolved to seize it, convinced that he could feed his forces easier by plunder than by carting through the mud of Whitehall and the sands of Fort Ann; inasmuch as by the latter process, continued for three weeks, he was able to lay by him in store only the provisions needed for four days. The forces intended to pillage Bennington, and do other exploits, were entrusted to Lieutenant Colonel Baum, who bore as a Paladium, a letter of instructions, in the judgment of British officers "so minute and wise that they left nothing to chance."†

Baum's corps left Burgoyne's camp near Saratoga, on Tuesday, August 12th, and marched to Battenkill. On Wednesday they advanced to Cambridge, where their scouts surprised a party of Americans, and seized many cattle, horses and wagons. On Thursday they pushed forward within four miles of Bennington. During these three days they could not have marched more than thirty miles. Yet this was a corps which Burgoyne thought might, within a fortnight, march to Albany by way of Rockingham and Brattleboro', and, in passing, subjugate the Otter Creek and Connecticut valleys. But it is easy to account for this slowness of movement. Baum's march was through a thick forest, and his

*Burgoyne's Narrative, XLI. † Anbury I, 346.

martinets halted the men ten times an hour to dress their ranks. The Germans, of whom the corps was mostly composed, were the most unwieldy portion of the British forces. "In addition to the ordinary hatchet, blanket and haversack of provisions, each bore a cap with a very heavy brass front, a sword of an enormous size, a coat very long skirted, and a canteen holding not less than a gallon."* Baum also wasted much time in administering the oath of allegiance to tories, real and pretended, listening to their flattering reports and giving them arms. On the third day, also, at the bridge of Sanhoik, over the Hoosic North Branch, he found a party of Americans. Not till a good deal of firing and some loss on his part, could he dislodge them from the bushes or chaparral under cover of which they fought. He was further delayed, since the Hessians shunned the water like cats, in repairing the bridge broken down by the Americans before they took to flight, but afterwards he made his way to the river Wallumscoik, within four miles of Bennington, and perhaps would have continued his march the same evening to that "cluster of poor cottages," as he called that village, had he not met Stark's brigade in battle array.

Probably on account of this obstacle, Baum halted, and lodged his forces in six or eight log houses on the banks of the river.—The next day, Friday, brought a deluge of rain, and the corps would gladly have kept under shelter, but were incessantly alarmed by rebel skirmishes, and were ordered to comply with one article of Burgoyne's instructions which was in these words: "Whenever you find it necessary to halt for a day or two, you must always intrench the camp of the regiment of dragoons, in order *never to risk* an attack or assault from the enemy.†" As if it were a thing incredible that our guerrillas should draw near an intrenchment. This morning also, or sooner, according to a British officer,‡ Baum sent to Burgoyne for succor, though according to his instructions, he was not to do so, unless a detachment were moved from Arnold's main army to intercept him.

All day Friday, then, and far into the night, spite of the rain and rangers, the Germans tore down the houses, carried the logs of which they were built up a hill a little North, so placed them as to form a zigzag breastwork, and heaped up earth behind, and

*Anbury I, 335. †Stevens, 470. ‡Anbury I, 349.

sods before it. One of the cannon we have now assembled to receive, was planted at the North, and the other at the South corner of the intrenchment. They who had derided Yankees for fighting behind trees when *standing*, had no scruples about themselves fighting behind the same trees when laid *horizontally*. Within this fortification, all Baum's troops were concentrated, and lighting no fires for fear of hostile sharp shooters, passed the night alarmed by nothing but the whoops of their own Indians and the occasional random shot from their enemies.* The forces here bivouacing numbered about eight hundred, namely: 200 Germans, 100 Indians, Fraser's marksmen, 50 Chasseurs, and the remainder Tories who had flocked to the royal standard upon the march, and no less than 151 of whom were made prisoners the day following.

On Wednesday, the second day of Baum's march, he was heard of by Stark, but mistaken for a scout, and only two hundred men sent against him under Colonel Gregg. These two hundred were the body with whom the affair at Sancoik's bridge took place.— But Stark had scarcely sent off this detachment, before his mistake was corrected by an express, who informed him of the approach of an enemy with cannon. He heard this news with surprise, for it was generally supposed that the British no longer threatened Vermont. Two weeks before, six of their battalions, for some time posted at Castleton, had left the State; two days before, Cushing's Regiment of Worcester Militia, thinking the danger over at Bennington, had marched thence to Stillwater. Schuyler thought one small regiment enough to defend Vermont, and letters were written from Bennington in this style: "The enemy have pointed their whole force toward Albany, and evacuated this State entirely." Stark had been but two days in Bennington, and had Baum's incursion been deferred three days longer, he would in all likelihood have left Vermont soldierless, and gone to threaten Burgoyne's rear, or, perhaps would have marched to join Schuyler.†

During the evening and night of Wednesday, an alarm was sounded from Bennington in every direction. Letters were dis-

*This account of Baum's march and measures is condensed from that of Glich, a Hessian officer. †Stevens 477, 491, 535.

patched by the Vermont Council of Safety, bidding officers hurry forward with all speed whatever rangers were recruited.* On Thursday, Stark mustered his brigade, which nominally had 1332 privates, but actually perhaps only half that number, as one company was at Number Four, two on the mountains, others elsewhere, or weakened by sickness and desertion. His numbers were estimated by Schuyler at less than 7 or 800.† He was joined by Captain Robinson with the Bennington Militia,‡ and by many volunteers from the vicinity. About four miles from Bennington, he met the detachment he had sent out the day before, on a rapid retreat. His army and the enemy looked each other in the face, but neither ventured to commence an attack. The skirmishes during the rainy Friday, resulting in some loss to the British and none to the Americans, habituated the raw levies to the sight of enemies, and raised their ideas of their own prowess. .

On Saturday morning, Stark was joined by Colonel Symonds with part of a regiment of Berkshire militia, and by Colonel Herriek at the head of three hundred Vermont Rangers, in a uniform of green with red facings. Stark's disposition of his forces on this day, shows, not only that he was resolved to force Baum to fight, but that his greatest fear was lest his enemies should make good their retreat. Accordingly, more than half his men were ordered to make a wide circuit so as to fall upon the right and left flanks of the enemy, at the moment Stark himself should storm the breastwork in front. The marching necessary to effect this manœuvre, required them to ford the swollen Wallumscoik twice, and consumed most of the day, and according to the Hessian account of the battle, produced in the hearts of the intrenched corps, as strange a vagary as any that ever deluded Don Quixote.—Scouts came in to the Hessian commander, reporting that bodies of armed men were approaching, though whether with a friendly or hostile intention, neither their appearance nor actions enabled the scouts to ascertain.§ Baum became so duped as to believe that the armed bands of whose approach he was warned, were *loyalists*, on their way to make a tender of their services to the

*Stevens, 513. †Ibid. 535. ‡At this point the speaker showed the original roll of Robinson's company, numbering seventy-one. §Glich's Narrative.

leader of the king's troops ! Hence he sent orders to the outposts that no molestation should be offered to the advancing columns. "Those outposts," says a Hessian who was present, "withdrew without firing a shot, from thickets which might have been maintained for hours against any numbers." This was like Napoleon's mistaking Blucher for Grouchy.

At length, about three o'clock in the afternoon, a sudden tramping was heard in the forest North of the fortification, then a loud shout, then a rapid, though straggling fire of musketry. The shout was a signal given by the detachment of Americans which had furthest to march, that they had reached their appointed post. The attack at once began on three sides of the breastwork. The first volley discharged by the New Englanders drove in the Indians from the surrounding woods, and a movement of the flanking assailants to unite in the rear, frightened them to a precipitate, though not bloodless flight. The tales of terror they carried home, shielded and *tabooed* every village but one in Vermont from Indian assaults through all the remaining years of the revolution. In the gap left by the desertion of the Indians, one of the field pieces now before you* was mounted, while the brazen mouth of the other thrust forth a tongue of flame in whatever direction the assailants were seen standing thick together. But the Americans sheltered themselves, as with an extemporaneous breastwork, behind stumps, trees, rocks and hillocks. The conflict was long a trial of sharp-shooting, as it were a thousand duels at one time and in one place. The simple Hessians had been persuaded they were to fight with Cannibals, and that if captured they would be roasted and eaten. Every moment they heard, no, they only *hoped* they heard, Brey-mann's far-off bugles as he hastened to their rescue. They still had hopes of forcing their way back to that father-land they were homesick to behold once more. Baum cried in their ears that their discipline, their position, their intrenchments, and their cannon must make them conquerors, even over men fighting for their own farms. The Tories, who had joined the king's troops, confident that in these last days the time of recompense for all their maltreatment had come, were entrenched in front of the German bat-

*The cannon were laid on a platform between the speaker and his audience.

tery. They braved the battle-fire that they might, if it were by any means possible, turn their castle in the air into a castle on the earth.

On the other hand, the assailants saw before them a band of mercenaries, bought at thirty crowns a head, and of whose speech they could not understand a syllable. They saw a horde whose orders were to make spoil of every horse, every ox, every wheel carriage, every saddle, every bridle, leaving only the milch cows as special clemency, to carry off all provisions, to tax every village as much as it could pay, Tories being judges, to take hostages for payment of the tax, to let loose Indians and Tories to do what they pleased with the refractory vanquished. They knew that they were the *last* hope of New England, that if they were repelled there was no reserve to fall back on, that the dragoons, now dismounted before them, on the morrow would be cavalry, a winged army pouncing on the fugitives in every valley, while Indians would set fire to every hill-side hamlet and scalp its inmates.—Stark was full of high disdain from a sense of injured merit. Rivals had been promoted over his head and he left a subaltern,—

“Men
That never set a squadron in the field,
Nor the division of battle knew
More than a spinster, except the bookish theorick.”

He had insisted on having a separate command and independent authority. Had he taken this position only to expose his weakness, like one who plunges into deep water, though he cannot swim? He was tried and to be found wanting or not wanting? It was for him in these moments a fearful question: Was he to prove a mere partisan, a scout, or was he to prove a General,

“Expert,
When to advance, or stand, or turn the sway
Of battle; open when, and when to close
The ridges of grim War?”

He heard the war-whoop of the savages who had captivated him in his boyhood, and forced him to run the gauntlet. Is it any wonder his words to his men were: “There are your enemies, the red coats and Tories; we must have them in half an hour, or **THIS NIGHT MY WIFE SLEEPS A WIDOW!**” No wonder the engagement

was "the hottest he had ever witnessed, resembling a continual clap of thunder."*

Yet so sheltered were the Hessians by their works, and so sharp was their fire, that Stark hesitated for hours to order a charge. But on a sudden a solitary wagon containing all the German spare ammunition, *exploded* in the midst of their redoubt.† You would have thought that explosion to be an *order* given to each American to charge with railroad speed, for the redoubt was instantly stormed and carried on every side. "Then, for a few moments," says the Hessian narrative, "the bayonet, the butt of the rifle, the sabre, and the pike were in full play, and men fell as they have rarely fallen in modern warfare, under the direct blows of their adversaries." Baum, sword in hand, led the remnant of his men, but soon sunk mortally wounded, and save a few who darted here and there between the sursounding assailants, his whole corps, with the loyalists who had joined them, were disabled or taken prisoners.

When the smoke cleared away, those who had vanquished the tories, beheld among the captives, among the wounded, among the killed, their neighbors, and in some cases their *kinsmen*. My own mother's father was in this battle under Stark. My step-mother's father, but for an accident, might have fought in the same battle under Baum. And these, my two grand-fathers, were cousins.

While many of Stark's men were collecting plunder, others guarding prisoners, or chasing fugitives, or seeking refreshments, they were surprised by a new enemy, for Breymann came up with a reinforcement, and appeared of power to revenge the annihilation of Baum's detachment. Had he arrived *one hour* sooner, he might have changed the fortune of the day,—why not of the campaign? of the War? He came on a forced march and yet according to a British officer, his division spent thirty-three hours in marching twenty-two miles.‡ Unpardonable slowness! What though the weather was rainy, and many of these hours night,

*Life by his son, 250, 265. †This loss of ammunition is described by Burgoyne as happening in the second battle. "The failure of ammunition from the accidental breaking of a tumbrel, unfortunately obliged Breymann to retire with his conquering troops." Narrative XLIV. ‡Anbury, I. 349. According to Burgoyne, Breymann was 31 hours in advancing 24 miles. Narrative XLIII.

and the road muddy or through a forest? Had his troops made half the dispatch to succor their friends, which they made on their own flight when fear added wings to their feet, they might have won laurels which crowned, and crown, the men of New England. The forces under Breymann were Brunswick grenadiers, light infantry and chasseurs, and in number not less than a thousand. They overpowered the handful who first opposed them. They had a fair prospect of cutting to pieces in detail the several divisions of Stark's scattered brigade, when "just in the opportunity of opportunity," a part of Warner's regiment, which, during the previous night, had hurried from Manchester to Shaftsbury, and thence that morning to Bennington, and afterwards had been detained to put their firelocks in order, reached the field. They were only one hundred and fifty men, but their coming was as decisive as the arrival of Blucher at Waterloo, or the charge of Kellermann at Marengo. The victorious advance of the Germans was checked. Stark's battalions you would have said to rise from out the earth at the stamp of his foot. After the first action he had ordered a hogshead of rum, and it was ready for distribution among his men, but they, refusing to taste it while the victory was doubtful, and flushed with their success an hour before, rushed to meet the fresh troops of Breymann. The field pieces which we to-night begin to possess, taken from Baum, were turned against those who came to Baum's rescue. Breymann's cannon of larger calibre were taken and re-taken more than twice, but at last remained in the hands of the Americans. The cannon were an emblem of victory on that eventful day.

Now sways it this way, like a mighty sea
 Forced by the tide to combat with the wind;
 Now sways it that way, like the self-same sea
 Forced to retire by fury of the wind.

But what could overcome the men who fought for their firesides and freedom, and who in the words of Stark, "had each man been an Alexander or a Charles of Sweden, could not have behaved more gallantly!" The sun went down, and no star of hope save in flight, arose for the Germans. They were pursued till dark, and in Stark's judgment, "had there been one hour more of daylight the whole detachment would have been killed or captivated."

Some accounts state that Breymann's soldiers, before taking to flight, made signs for a parley with intent to surrender, but that their signs were misunderstood. Another report is, that this misunderstanding took place in Baum's intrenchment, where it is said the Hessians *clubbed* their muskets (that is, held them butts up and muzzles down) as a token of submission, while the Americans, not used to bayonets, supposed that the Hessians had clubbed their firelocks, as the Americans had done the year before at Bunker Hill, to fight on unto the death.

I ought not to pass in silence the vivid, though seemingly trifling particulars, forming what are commonly termed *anecdotes*, concerning this battle, for, as we listen to the narratives of old age, they bring the light of other days around us.

During one of the skirmishes, which seemed to be drawing on a general engagement, messenger after messenger was dispatched to hurry forward an approaching reinforcement, but each and all failed of their object, and were told in reply: "One fresh soldier is better than ten that are weary." When this slow-footed detachment had reached the field, they would not begin firing till the minister who led them, Rev. Mr. Allen, of Pittsfield, had prayed the God of armies, to teach their hands to war, and their fingers to fight.

During the second engagement, Johnston of Haverhill, carrying orders from Stark, was met in a wood by a file of Hessians, and yet, with the staff in his hand, his only weapon, wrenched the file-leader's sword from his grasp, seized it himself, and compelled that officer to make his men surrender. He gave this trophy to his son with these words: "This sword was won by valor; let it never be re-taken through cowardice." A grandson of the hero still keeps this Hessian blade. Let it be preserved by his son's sons, even to the years of many generations!*

One of the soldiers, who went into battle barefoot, or nearly so, seeing a good pair of shoes on one of the slain, transferred them

*This sword, which was a splendid article, with the Hessian officer's name, and a good deal of etching upon it, was exhibited for the mournful gratification of spectators at Johnston's funeral. It is now in the possession of the Rev. Charles Johnston, of the town of Locke, Cayuga County, New York. Powers' Coos County, 104.

to his own feet, but found the dead man's shoes a fleeting inheritance, being killed in the course of the action.

A Lieutenant Claghorn, of Rutland, after the fighting was over, counted seven bullet holes in his hat and clothes. He was grandfather to Major Alvord, of the United States Army, promoted from a Lieutenant for gallantry in various actions under both Taylor and Scott in Mexico.

Among those who jeopardized their lives was one Green, from Westminster, whose parents were so Puritanical as to christen him Zebadiah, and who, with five others, made up all the privates of an entire regiment who stood at their posts, a few days after, when wholesale desertions prevailed ;—

“ Faithful found among the faithless, faithful only they,
Unshaken, unseduced, unterrified.”

One aged man having been told that one of his five sons who were in the field was slain while fighting bravely, had him brought in and laid before him, all besmeared with dirt and gore, called for a bowl of water and a napkin, and with tearless eyes washed his son's corpse, and wiped his gaping wounds.

Several *errors* concerning the Bennington battle into which the inaccurate, though vivid Headly has fallen, will escape the notice of no Vermonter. He says: “ Warner was at Manchester with his *Massachusetts* men.” Again, Headly says that it was the *Berkshire* militia who came up at the critical moment and decided the evening battle. Few school girls are ignorant that it was the *Green Mountain boys*, and no others, who rallied the wavering and scattered troops of Stark. Headly says: “ Stark's horse sunk under him.”* Governor Everett, in his life of Stark, remarks: “ The General's horse was killed in the action.”† These assertions would seem warranted by Stark's own words, which are: “ I lost my horse in the action and was glad to come off so well.‡” But he does not say *how* he lost his horse; and that he did not lose him in the way that Headly and Everett assert, is manifest from the following advertisement, which appeared a few weeks after the battle, in the Connecticut Courant :§

* Washington and his Generals, I. 216, 221, 222. † Spark's Am. Biography, I. 89. ‡ Life by his son, 266. § No. 665, page 4.

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.

Stole from me, the subscriber, from Wallumscok, in the time of action, the 16th of August last, a Brown Mare, five years old, had a star in her forehead. Also, a doe skin-seated saddle, blue housing trimmed with white, and a curbed bridle. It is earnestly requested of all Committees of Safety, and others in authority, to exert themselves to recover said thief and Mare, so that he may be brought to justice, and the Mare brought to me; and the person, whoever he be, shall receive the above reward for both, and for the Mare alone, one half of that sum.—How scandalous, how disgraceful and ignominious, must it appear to all friendly and generous souls, to have such sly, artful, designing villains enter into the field of action, in order to pillage, pilfer, and plunder from their brethren when engaged in battle!

JOHN STARK, B. D. G.

Bennington, 11th Sept., 1777.

Supposing Governor Everett would fain correct even minor inaccuracies in his excellent biography, I sent him a copy of this advertisement and claimed the *reward*, which I agreed to take in books for the library in my village. In the Governor's answer thanking me for the correction, he promises to send on the books, or at least a copy of his own works.

A letter is still preserved, written by Secretary Fay, of Bennington, at six o'clock on the afternoon of the battle, and sent hither and thither as a circular. It says: "Stark is now in an action which has been for some time very severe. * * The enemy were driven, but being reinforced, made a second stand and still continue the conflict. But we have taken their cannon, and prisoners, said to number four or five hundred, are now arriving."* Who of us can figure to himself the tortures of suspense by which the women and helpless ones all round about Bennington were excruciated during the hours of battle? In my boyhood, my grandmother often related to me how on that day she, with many other women of Williamstown, and their minister, resorted to their meetinghouse, and there continued in prayer for their kinsmen who were on the field of blood, till late at night, when a courier came announcing glad tidings. She could never refrain from tears when she spoke of hearing the cannon-peals again and again booming over the hills, and knew not but each peal spoke defeat and death to those she held most dear, and threatened her home with pillage, outrage and flames. She could not foresee what we now witness, but may not her enskied and sainted spirit behold us this hour?

*Stevens, 537.

The German and British prisoners were conducted to Bennington, and for the most part, shut up in the meeting-house. Thence they were soon escorted into Massachusetts, for on the night of August 19th, they were in Lanesborough. The tories being held in special abhorrence, they were treated with more severity.—Bound two and two like slaves in a coffle, each pair was tied behind a horse, which was often ridden by a negro. In this style, a rude imitation of the Roman fashion of triumphal processions, they were marched into Bennington. The house-wives of that village, with great alacrity, took down their bedsteads to furnish cords enough for this pageant. Many of these loyalists were afterwards buried alive, as slaves to work in the fire, in the mines of Simsbury a dark opprobrious den of shame. Others of the unpatriotic were admitted to a sort of parole, on signing a paper that if found out of a certain house or township, or off a certain farm, they consented to be shot by any one who found them.*

The sick and wounded were cared for with all diligence. Doctor Potts and Doctor Hovey were busy with medicines and amputating instruments.† But the men who were well and unwounded, ranged to and fro in quest of plunder, all the booty taken from the invaders having been promised by Stark, as the prize of the victors.‡ Yet of all the precious things, no man might appropriate any thing to himself, till all the spoils had been collected and a distribution made. However, there were Achans in the camp, for within a few days after the battle, a warrant was issued to search Jacob Hyde's house, as well as to arrest Alexander Gordon and his wife on a charge of secreting public plunder.§ When the division was made, the portion of each of the Bennington soldiers on Captain Robinson's roll was five dollars. The receipts given by at least fifty-four, I hold in my hand.|| Before thus dividing the spoil, Stark selected certain articles to be presented as trophies to the States of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, namely: for each State, one Hessian gun and bayonet, one broad sword, one brass barreled drum, and one grenadier's cap.¶ These presents called forth from each of the States, a letter of thanks.

*One of the original formulas of parole was read, and a copy of that paper is inserted in the appendix. †Stevens, 593. ‡Life by his son, 266. §Stevens, 599. ||For a copy of these receipts, see Appendix. ¶Stevens, 541, 673.

The gift to Massachusetts is still suspended in the Senate Chamber at Boston, over the entrance and opposite the Speaker's chair. Stark's present to his own State, is reported to have been sold at auction, many-years ago.* His present to Vermont, which he had requested might be kept in commemoration of his victory, was received with a promise that it should be kept for the use designed.† Yet it has vanished, and left no trace, no tradition behind. Whether it was sold at auction, as the present to the Granite State was, or whether it was left behind as useless lumber, when our rotatory legislature ceased to sit where it sat when the gift was received, we can only conjecture.

I am informed that the cap of Colonel Baum was for many years worn to the Legislature by the representative from the town of Pownal; that his wig, after being long kept in Bennington, was lent to be used in an exhibition in Troy, and thus lost; and that his sword still hangs in the bar-room of a Bennington tavern. One Hessian sword is still in the possession of one of the Senators whom I now have the pleasure of addressing.‡ It was taken by his father in the battle, and preserved for many years as a curiosity, but finally beaten by a village blacksmith,—not exactly into a pruning hook,—but into a butcher knife! *Quantum mutatus ab illo!* Colonel Baum's map of the United States, which hangs there, was long hung as a curtain before the cracks and crevices in General Stark's log house.§

It is proverbially a Yankee characteristic, never to make an end of inquisitive questionings till the exact cost of everything in dollars and cents has been ascertained! Happily, I am able to gratify even this sort of curiosity. The whole expense of Stark's brigade for mustering, mileage, rations, wages and contingent charges, was £16492 12s. 10d. of continental money, which was paid by the United States according to such a scale of depreciation, that every single dollar of hard money paid for thirty-three dollars of the account. So that £491 and one penny, or less than \$2000, paid for the twofold and ever memorable victory.¶

*See Appendix. †Stark's life by his son, 196. Slade's Vt. State papers, 211. ‡Hon. Ira Stewart of Middlebury. §This map, found among the baggage of Colonel Baum, was suspended on the wall behind the speaker. ¶Stark's muster roll, copied by Stevens from the archives of New Hampshire.

Ascertaining that a veteran of Bennington was still living some eight miles from my house in Wells River, I paid him a visit about a week ago. His name is Thomas Mellen, and though upwards of ninety-two years of age, he is so far from being bald or bowed down, that you would think him in the Indian summer of life. His dress was all of grey homespun, and he sat on a couch, the covering of which was sheepskins with the wool on. I will repeat his statements, as far as possible in his own words.

“I enlisted,” said he, “at Francestown, New Hampshire, in Colonel Stickney’s regiment, and Captain Clark’s company, as soon as I learned that Stark would accept the command of the State troops. Six or seven others from the same town joined the army at the same time. We marched forthwith to Number Four, and stayed there a week. Meantime I received a horn of powder, and run two or three hundred bullets. I had brought my own gun. Then my company was sent on to Manchester. Soon after I went with a hundred others under Colonel Emerson, down the valley of Otter Creek. On this excursion, we lived like lords on pigs and chickens in the houses of tories who had fled. When we returned to Manchester, bringing two hogsheads of West India rum, we heard that the Hessians were on their way to invade Vermont. Late in the afternoon of rainy Friday, we were ordered off for Bennington in spite of rain, mud, and darkness.—We pushed on all night, each making the best progress he could. About daybreak, I, with Lieutenant Miltimore, came near Bennington, and slept a little while on a hay-mow. When the barnyard fowls waked us, we went for bread and milk to the sign of the Wolf, and then hurried three miles West, to Stark’s main body.

“Stark and Warner,* rode up near the enemy to reconnoitre, were fired at with the cannon, and came galloping back. Stark rode with shoulders bent forward, and cried out to his men: “Those rascals know that I am an officer; don’t you see they honor me with a big gun as a salute?” We were marched round and round a circular hill till we were tired. Stark said it was to amuse the

*An ingenious argument in regard to the question whether Warner was in the first battle, may be seen in the *Life of Warner*, by the Hon. Daniel Chipman, now in press.

Germans. All the while a cannonade was kept up upon us from their breastwork. It hurt nobody, and it lessened our fear of the great guns. After awhile I was sent, with twelve others, to lie in ambush on a knoll a little North, and watch for tories on their way to join Baum. Presently we saw six coming toward us, who, mistaking us for tories, came too near us to escape. We disarmed them and sent them, under a guard of three, to Stark. While I sat on the hillock, I espied one Indian whom I thought I could kill, and more than once cocked my gun, but the orders were not to fire. He was cooking his dinner, and now and then shot at some of our people.

“Between two and three o’clock the battle began. The Germans fired by platoons, and were soon hidden by smoke. Our men fired each on his own hook, aiming wherever they saw a flash. Few on our side had either bayonets or cartridges. At last I stole away from my post, and ran down to the battle. The first time I fired I put three balls into my gun. Before I had time to fire many rounds, our men rushed over the breastwork, but I and many others chased straggling Hessians in the woods. We pursued till we met Breymann with eight hundred fresh troops and larger cannon, which opened a fire of grape shot. Some of the grape shot riddled a Virginia fence near me, one struck a small white oak tree behind which I stood. Though it hit higher than my head, I fled from the tree, thinking it might be aimed at again. We skirmishers ran back till we met a large body of Stark’s men, then faced about. I soon started for a brook I saw a few rods behind, for I had drank nothing all day; and should have died with thirst had I not *chewed a bullet* all the time. I had not gone a rod when I was stopped by an officer, sword in hand, and ready to cut me down as a runaway. On my complaining of thirst, he handed me his canteen, which was full of rum. I drank and forgot my thirst.

“But the enemy outflanked us, and I said to a comrade: we must run or they will have us. He said: “I will have one more fire first.” At that moment a Major on a black horse rode along behind us, shouting: “Fight on, boys; reinforcements close by.” While he was yet speaking, a grape shot went through his horse’s head and knocked out two teeth. It bled a good deal, but the

Major kept his seat and spurred on to encourage others. In five minutes we saw Warner's men hurrying to help us. They opened right and left of us, and half of them attacked each flank of the enemy, and beat back those who were just closing around us. Stark's men now took heart and stood their ground. My gun-barrel was by this time too hot to hold, so I seized the musket of a dead Hessian, in which my bullets went down easier than in my own. Right in front were the cannon, and seeing an officer on horseback waving his sword to the artillerymen, I fired at him twice. His horse fell. He cut the traces of an artillery horse, mounted him and rode off. I afterwards heard that that officer was Major Skeene.

"Soon the Germans ran and we followed. Many of them threw down their guns on the ground, or offered them to us, or kneeled, some in puddles of water. One said to me: *wir sind ein, bruder!* I pushed him behind me and rushed on. All those near me did so. The enemy beat a parley, minded to give up, but our men did not understand it. I came to one wounded man, flat on the ground, crying *water*, or *quarter*. I snatched his sword out of his scabbard, and, while I ran on and fired, carried it in my mouth, thinking I might need it. The Germans fled by the road and in a wood each side of it. Many of their scabbards caught in the brush and held the fugitives till we seized them. We chased them till dark. Colonel Johnston, of Haverhill, wanted to chase them all night. Had we done so, we might have mastered them all, for they stopped within three miles of the battle-field. But Stark, saying he would run no risk of spoiling a good day's work, ordered a halt and return to quarters.

"I was coming back, when ordered by Stark himself, who knew me, as I had been one of his body guard in Canada, to help draw off a field piece. I told him I was worn out. His answer was: "Don't seem to disobey; take hold, and if you can't hold out, slip away in the dark." Before we had dragged the gun far, Warner rode near us. Some one pointing to a dead man by the wayside, said to him: "Your brother is killed." "Is it Jesse?" asked Warner; and when the answer was, Yes, he jumped off his horse, stooped and gazed in the dead man's face, and then rode away without saying a word. On my way back I got the belt of the Hessian,

whose sword I had taken in the pursuit. I also found a barber's pack, but was obliged to give up all my findings till the booty was divided. To the best of my remembrance, my share was four dollars and some odd cents. One Tory with his left eye shot out, was led by me mounted on a horse who had also lost his left eye. It seems cruel now—it did not then.

“My company lay down and slept in a cornfield near where we had fought; each man having *a hill of corn for a pillow*. When I waked next morning I was so beaten out that I could not get up till I had rolled about a good while. After breakfast I went to see them bury the dead. I saw thirteen Tories, mostly shot through the head, buried in one hole. Not more than a rod from where I fought, we found Captain McClary dead, and stripped naked. We scraped a hole with sticks and just covered him with earth. We saw many of the wounded who had lain out all night. Afterwards we went to Bennington and saw the prisoners paraded. They were drawn up in one long line, the British foremost, then the Waldechers, next the Indians, and hindmost the Tories.”

The old man from whose lips I wrote down the foregoing narrative, has been a teetotaler for several years, though he was long an inebriate. When I surprised him in his sequestered abode, I found him busy with a book in large print entitled “The consolations of Religion.” If the gentlemen I have the honor to address, when they separate and seek their homes, will catechise the veterans they know, and write out and print their revelations, a more vivid and minute description of our most famous battle than is yet dreamed of will be their reward.

The results of this victory can scarcely be overrated. It was much to cut off from Burgoyne's army, in a single day, one sixth of its numbers, or more than a thousand of killed, wounded and prisoners,—to capture their arms, artillery and baggage,—to annihilate a detachment to the leader of which Burgoyne's words were: “Always bear in mind that your corps is too valuable to let any considerable loss be *hazarded*.”* The moral effect of this success was heightened by various particulars. At Bennington, militia with scarcely a bayonet,—for the first time I believe,—

*Stevens, 471.

stormed intrenchments,—at Bunker Hill they had only defended them. Here, raw troops, many of whom had never seen a cannon, stormed a battery, ground to powder a corps composed of Frazer's marksmen or "chosen men from all the regiments,"* and German dragoons, veterans of the seven years' war,—“the best I had of that nation,” says Burgoyne, or, as described by a Hessian, “men of tried valor and enterprise.” Moreover here was a victory gained by a beaten army over a successful one,—by one often beaten over one often successful. How could it fail to inspirit and inspire? True it was a single star, but it was the first star which arose in a firmament hitherto the blackness of darkness. Henceforth Burgoyne's honeymoon was over, and Hessian forces were less dreaded than Hessian flies.

Let us further consider the results of this action. It was exactly what had been Washington's heart's desire, or rather it was twice as much as he had dared to hope, onward from the loss of Ticonderoga, for on the 22d of July he wrote to Schuyler: “Could we be so happy as to cut off one of his detachments, supposing it should not exceed four, five or six hundred men, it would inspirit the people and do away much of their present anxiety. In such an event they would lose sight of past misfortunes, fly to arms and afford every aid in their power.”†

The revolution wrought in Burgoyne's feelings is betrayed by the contrast between his letters just before and just after the expedition. In the former he writes to the leader of the corps sent against Vermont: “Mount your dragoons, send me thirteen hundred horses, seize Bennington, cross the mountains to Rockingham and Brattleborough, try the affections of the country, take hostages, meet me a fortnight hence in Albany.” Four days *after* the battle he writes to England: “The Hampshire Grants in particular, a country unpeopled and almost unknown in the last war, now abounds in the most active and rebellious race of the continent, and hangs like a gathering storm upon my left.”‡ Burgoyne was far from overrating the influence of Stark's success. Within three days thereafter, Schuyler wrote to Stark: “The signal victory you have gained, and the severe loss the enemy have received,

*Narrative 19. †Washington papers, IV. 503. ‡Burgoyne, Narrative XLVI.

cannot fail of producing the most salutary results." Within a week, a handbill was issued at Boston containing an exaggerated account of Stark's triumph; the news was there proclaimed by criers, and rung out from all the bells. Clinton wrote: "Since the affair at Bennington, not an Indian has been heard of; the scalping has ceased; indeed I do not apprehend any great danger from the future operations of Mr. Burgoyne."* Washington, writing Putnam, was high in hope that New England, following the great stroke struck by Stark, would entirely crush Burgoyne;† and a rumor that Burgoyne *was* crushed, raised the siege of Fort Stanwix and broke his right wing. All this was within one week after Baum and Breymann were discomfited. In one day more a rumor was rife in New Hampshire that Burgoyne had been taken at Stillwater :‡

—————" As the sun
Ere he be risen, sometimes paints his image
In the atmosphere, the shadows of great events
Precede the events, and in to-day already walks to-morrow."

Three weeks before the Hessian overthrow, Gouverneur Morris wrote from Schuyler's camp: "If a body of 3000 men can be formed somewhere upon the New Hampshire Grants; if General Washington can spare a reinforcement of 1500 good troops; if the Governor discharge all of the militia in the highlands; if he be put at the head of one-third of the New York militia and two hundred good riflemen and sent into Tryon County, we may laugh at Messrs. Howe and Burgoyne."§ None of the consummations wished for by these *ifs* came to pass, yet the day of Bennington, by enabling us to laugh at Burgoyne, accomplished what Morris had most at heart. That nothing less than this was among the many-sided utilities of that great day is attested by many witnesses. It is the testimony of the Baroness Riedesel, then in the British camp, whose words are: "This unfortunate event [Baum and Breymann's discomfiture] paralyzed at once our operations."|| It is the testimony of contemporary journals, in which we read of the victories at Bennington, as "sowing the seed of all the laurels that Gates reaped during the campaign."¶ It is

*Stevens, 213, 619. Stark's life by his son, 261. †Washington papers, V. 42.
‡Stevens, 630. §Ibid. 332. ||Letters, 140. ¶Connecticut Courant, No. 680.

the testimony of Jefferson, who declares them "the first link in the chain of successes which issued in the surrender of Saratoga."*

Students of our State history will always behold in this first success, the lone star which lit the way to the attacks under Warner and Herrick at Lake George landing, and thus to the capture of the vessels in which Burgoyne might have escaped to Canada. Previous to these operations, the achievements of Stark emboldened Green Mountain rangers to infest or break up Burgoyne's communications with his depots of provisions, and thus for a whole month threw him into a chloroform stupefaction. That enterprising General was rearing an arch of conquest huge enough to darken all our land. The repulse on the banks of the Wallumscok, plucked out the crowning keystone from that well-nigh finished arch, so that the whole structure cracked, crumbled by piecemeal, tottered and fell, a wreck of ruin never to rise again. In two months to a day, from that first reverse, Burgoyne's motto: "*This army must never retreat,*"† was strangely interpreted, for we behold

"The desolator desolate,
The victor overthrown."

"One more such stroke," said Washington on hearing the tidings, "one more such stroke, and we shall have no great cause for anxiety as to the future designs of Britain."

Five days *after* the glories of Bennington, a resolution was introduced in Congress at Philadelphia, to censure Stark for not submitting to the regulations of the Continental army. Thereupon a member from New Hampshire rose and said, that he had not the least doubt but the first battle they heard of at the North, would be fought by Stark and the troops under his command, notwithstanding some gentlemen, in their warmth, had spoken disrespectfully of them, and that he should not be afraid to risk his honor or his life on a wager, that Stark's men would do as much as any equal number of troops towards the defence of the country. In a letter home, that speaker says: "Judge of my feelings when the very next day I had a confirmation of all I had asserted by an express from Schuyler, detailing the defeat of Baum and Brey-

*Stark's life by his son, 255. †Anbury, 273.

mann.”* It is needless to say, that the resolution of censure was forgotten, and on the fourth of October it was resolved by Congress that Brigadier Stark, of the New Hampshire militia, be appointed a Brigadier in the army of the United States.† Though by no means the youngest of the continental Generals, he outlived them all and proved the Nestor of the revolution.

Stark had sent no dispatch regarding his exploits to Congress, for he was not in the Continental service. In his letter of glad tidings to the Council of New Hampshire, I see no mark of elevation, save these modest words at the end of a postscript: “Gentlemen, I think we have returned the enemy a proper compliment in the above action for the Hubbardton engagement.”‡ There is a quiet, perhaps unconscious, humor betrayed in Stark’s observation at the end of his catalogue of prisoners: “I had almost forgot to mention one Hessian Chaplain.”

If Burgoyne was thunderstruck when an antagonist he never heard of “came cranking in, and cut him from the best of all his troops, a huge half-moon, a monstrous cantle out,” what would he have thought had he known that antagonist’s history?—how, twenty-five years before, Stark had been led along as a ransomed captive over the very ground where the British lay encamped?—how he had been given up by his savage master for one Indian pony in his stead? I copy the following sentence from the original journal of the officer who redeemed the captive: “July 12, 1752. “This day John Stark was brought to Montreal by his Indian master. He was taken a hunting this Spring. He is given up for “one Indian pony in his place for which we paid five hundred and “fifteen livres.”§ The boy sold for a French horse, in little more than a score of years, had become a man more precious than the wedges of Ophir!

The *first* anniversary of the battle of Bennington was celebrated in that village by the delivery of a poem and an oration. The poet was one Noah Smith. The orator was a Mr. Jacob, a Windsor lawyer. Both poem and oration were printed,—but are out of print. A manuscript copy of them may be found in Stevens’

*Stevens, 622. †Ibid. 765. ‡Ibid. 554. §The original manuscript of this journal kept by Captain Stevens, sent to Canada by Governor Shirley, was shown to the audience. It was discovered some years ago at the bottom of an old churn in a garret in Charlestown Number Four.

Vermont State papers. Thirty-nine years ago a committee wrote Stark from Bennington, that it had been usual on every anniversary of the battle for the people to hold the day in grateful remembrance by a public celebration.* The celebration of last August derived an unique interest from the return to Bennington at that time, of the war-like engines which we this hour welcome, three score and eleven years from the day when they had been the prize of victory on that very spot. The hill where the Hessians intrenched is still called Hessian hill. I once made a pilgrimage thither with the son of the Zebadiah Green whom I have commemorated as one of the only six men in an entire regiment who did not desert. Such was the son's eagerness to secure some relic of the field where his father fought, that he dug till he exhumed sundry bones, which, being a medical man, he knew to be bones of men and of tall men. He still keeps these memorials at his residence in New York City.

Though you have doubtless long wished my next word to be my last, I ought not to conclude without a more special notice of the CANNON before me, which have occasioned this concourse. It is a common opinion that these field-pieces were of French manufacture and taken by Wolf at Quebec. But the manufacturers' name plainly marked on them is J. & P. Verbruggen—a name no Frenchman,—and none but a Dutchman, will claim. The date of their casting, also legible upon them, is 1776, or but one year before they came into the power of Stark. By reason of the British broad arrow or crowfoot marked upon them, they have been considered of British workmanship; but that mark is thought by good judges not to have been cast, but *cut with a graver*. Besides, the fourth article in the treaty with Hesse stipulated, that each battalion of the Hessians should be provided with two pieces of field artillery; and the eighth article stipulated, that if unfortunately the pieces of artillery should be taken by the enemy or lost on the sea, the King of Great Britain should pay the price of the same.† The weight of each of these pieces is marked upon it,—that of the one is 209, that of the other 213 pounds. They are called by our War Department three pounders.‡ According to Stark they are

*Stark's life by his son, 257. †American Archives, (fourth series) VI. 274, 275.
‡Bill of the cannon and accompaniments from the keeper of the Watervliet arsenal.

four pounders. Of the four guns taken at Bennington I am inclined to think that these we now gaze upon were the two seized at the storming of the redoubt, for these, as I have said, have never been rated as more than four pounders, while the others were of larger calibre, and therefore more likely to accompany the larger force under Breymann. These, then, are the guns of which Stark, describing the evening conflict, says: "We used their own cannon against them, which proved of great service to us."

If the capture of four small cannon seem to us a trifle, let us consider, that New Hampshire then had no more in her principal frontier fortress; that Washington when most importuned by Schuyler and Gates, could only send ten pieces for their relief, and that ten days before the Bennington affair, there were no guns larger than these in Schuyler's camp at Stillwater.*

The two pieces we rejoice at inheriting this evening, were in Hull's park of artillery and were surrendered with his army at Detroit exactly thirty-five years from the day they came into the hands of Stark. The British officer of the day, ordered the evening salutes to be fired with them, and his eye happening to rest on the words graven upon them: "Taken from the Germans at Bennington, Aug. 16, 1777," he declared he would add these words: "Retaken from the Americans, Aug. 16, 1812." Happily before he found leisure to execute his threat, these artful dodgers shifted masters once more, being regained by our troops at the capture of Fort George. Had these revolutionary spoils been entrusted to our keeping before 1812, it is possible that they had not been retaken by the insolent foe.

Two years ago, addressing the Vermont Historical Society in this Capital, I was constrained to say: "The cannon taken at Bennington in defence of our frontier lie unclaimed at Washington." I have lived to see a better day,—to behold in my native State, yea in this place of honor,—as trophies, those death-dealing engines which my grandsire, now in his grave, jeopardized his life to wrest from his country's invaders. These trophies are ours by many titles. Ours, for Vermont blood shed in this battle, at Hubbardton and elsewhere,—ours, for expenses not reimbursed us by the United States

*Stevens Papers, 453, 447. Washington Papers, IV. 488.

as were those of other States,—ours, for their profaning our territory with their hostile balls,—ours, for supplies furnished Stark's brigade,—ours, for the superior skill of Warner and Herrick, who, alone of all the Colonels, were named by Stark as his most efficient colleagues.*

Where are the two six pounders? Who can tell? New Hampshire should have them,—she would have them this day, could she boast an antiquarian like him who has ferreted out these our cannon, a Senator and a Representative like those who have pressed our claim upon Congress,—had they but a Stevens, an Upham, and a Collamer.†

When I remember that Stark's donation to Vermont, the Hessian gun and bayonet, the broad-sword, brass-barreled drum and grenadier's cap, were not hung up for monuments as in Massachusetts, but vilely thrown away, I am glad Congress have kept these trophies so long, lest they should have been minted into cents or beaten into brass kettles by some groveling utilitarian. If we lose these relics, may we be vouchsafed no more! Some of you have marked how Massachusetts delights to honor the revolutionary trophy cannon which are among her perpetual possessions, by enshrining them in the sky-climbing chamber of the Bunker Hill monument. Others of you may have observed, that England glorifies with similar spoils the chief places of concourse in London. Let us, actuated by a congenial feeling, resolve that the time-honored relics so long lost, but now in the midst of us, shall go no more out from these walls of which we have more reason to be proud than of any other edifice in our highland homes; or that if they go hence, it shall be to grace a monument erected on the spot where the Hessian battery was formed, as the niche they were ordained to fill. Let them rouse an interest in our *history*, as the Swiss bone-houses and the tablets in German churches engraved with names of those who died for their father-land, rouse an interest in their history. Let them cause us to shudder at the curses of WAR, till we shall study the things which make for peace and know war only by its trophies. Let them fill us with the same

*Life by Everett, 90. †To many it will be pleasant to trace the steps by which the restoration of these trophy cannon to the Green Mountain boys was brought about. Those pieces were first espied by our indefatigable antiquarian, Henry Stevens, Esquire, while, in his own expressive phraseology, he was "mousing"

resolution to preserve our rich inheritance which they are witnesses that our fathers showed in acquiring it. Let them open our eyes to look upon all things, as Stark more than once spoke of his victory: "As given by the divine BEING who overpowers and "rules all things,—or as given by the God of armies who was "pleased to make him, his officers and men, instruments in checking the progress of the British forces." Then shall our mountains still be the holy land of freedom, and all our battle-fields remain that hallowed ground which speaks of nations saved.

around the arsenal at Washington. He soon roused an interest regarding them by these words in his report to Governor Slade: "Even the cannon taken from the Germans at Bennington, are now deposited in the United States arsenal in the District of Columbia as trophies, unpaid for by the General Government, and quietly acquiesced in by the Green Mountain boys."* Thereupon, the Governor in his next message thus spoke: "The closing recommendation of Mr. Stevens in regard to the cannon taken at Bennington, it gives me much pleasure to commend to your favorable consideration. If there is a man in Vermont whose blood would not course more quickly through his veins on seeing in our own State House, these trophies of the crowning act of Vermont valor, I am much mistaken."†

In consequence it was reported by a committee, and resolved by the two Houses, "that the Governor be requested to demand of the General Government the four brass cannon taken by the Green Mountain boys from the British at Bennington, and the same when received deposit in the State House at Montpelier."‡

Upon the Governor's application to the Secretary of War, the delivery of the cannon was declined by the National Executive, and the Governor referred to *Congress* as the appropriate body to place said cannon at the disposal of this State. Hence it was resolved by the two Houses of the Vermont Legislature: "That the Senators of this State in Congress be instructed, and the Representatives requested, to use their exertions to obtain an order of Congress for the delivery of said cannon to be deposited in the State House as a memorial of the valor which achieved the victory so honorable to the Green Mountain boys."§ Neither Senators nor Representatives failed of their duty. Senator Upham, and among the Representatives, Judge Collamer, are said to have been especially active. Judge Collamer's speech appeared among other papers in Walton's Watchman. The result was the following resolution, passed by the two Houses of Congress on the tenth of July, 1848: "That two brass field-pieces, captured from the enemy at the battle of Bennington, in the State of Vermont, in the year 1777, now in the possession of the United States, be immediately well mounted under the direction of the Secretary of War, and delivered to the Governor of the State of Vermont, to be hereafter holden as the property of said State."|| On the 27th of July, an order was issued from the Ordnance Office in pursuance of this resolution, and on the eighth of August, the guns were delivered at the Watervliet arsenal to Henry Stevens, Esq., who had been deputed to receive them by the Governor of Vermont.

*Senate Journal 1843, Ap. page 9. †House Journal, 103, 1844. ‡*ibid.* 134.—§*Ibid.* 91, 1845. ||Acts of thirtieth Congress, page 221.

APPENDIX.

I.

(Referred to on page 11.)

IN COUNCIL OF SAFETY: STATE OF VERMONT.

BENNINGTON, 28TH JULY, 1777.

To Lieut. Peter Roberts, one of the Officers of Sequestration for said State:

You are hereby required (agreeably to a previous resolve of the Council) to seize all lands, tenements, goods and chattels of any person or persons in this State whom you [MSS torn and illegible] to the enemy, and a true inventory thereof, to take and return to this Council. All such articles as are wanted for the use of the Army, which if wanted at Manchester or elsewhere, where there is a contractor to receive and pay for them, you will appoint three persons noted for good judgment, which after being sworn, are to apprise the same; and all other moveable effects you are to sell at Public Vendue, except such necessaries as humanity requires, for the support of such families; and after paying necessary charges, you are to remit the remainder of the money to this Council [MSS. torn and illegible] and artificial marks of every creature you shall receive or take, and their age, from whom they came, for what sold, and to whom sold. You are to lease out all such lands and tenements at a reasonable price, not exceeding two years, giving the preference to such persons as have been drove from their farms by this War.

You are further authorized to arrest any person or persons you shall have sufficient grounds to believe are enemies to the liberties of this and the United States of America. And all such persons as you shall arrest, you will seize all their moveable effects (where there is danger of their being embezzled) and keep in safe custody until after trial, and if they are acquitted to give up to such person or persons such seizures; but if found guilty, to make return to this Council.

You are to call to your assistance such person or persons as you shall find necessary, keeping regular accompts of your procedures.

By order of Council,
THOMAS CHITTENDEN, *President.*

Attest: IRA ALLEN, *Sec'y.*

II.

(Referred to on page 16.)

Copy of Capt. Samuel Robinson's Roll, Aug. 16th, 1777. Were in battle, 16th August 1777:

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Robert Cochran, | Ammi Fuller, | John Clark, | David Safford, |
| Gideon Spencer, | Jonah Brewster, | Jehosephat Holmes, | Jared Post, |
| William Henry, | George Dale, | Moses Rice, | Jeremiah Bingham, |
| Henry Walbridge, | John Marble, | Benjamin Whip- | Samuel Slocum, |
| Rufus Branch, | Ephraim Marble, | ple, Junr. | Josiah Hurd, |
| John Larnard, | Aaron Hubbell, | Silas Robinson, | Ezekiel Brewster, |
| Thomas Abel, | Samuel Safford, Jr. | John Weeks, | Solomon Leason, |
| Nathan Lawrence, | Aaron Smith, | Moses Scott, | Thomas Selden, |
| Josiah Brush, | Ephraim Smith, | Alpheus Hathaway, | John Rigney, |
| David Fay, (Fifer.) | Samuel Henry, | Solomon Walbridge, | Elisha Smith, |
| Lenard Robinson, | Edward Henderson, | Ebenezer Brackett, | Moses Scott, |
| Daniel Bidlecome, | Jonathan Haynes, | Jehiel Smith, | Solomon Safford, |
| Levi Hathaway, | Archelus Tupper, | Asa Branch, | Joseph Roe, |
| Araham Hathaway, | Daniel Warner, | Phineas Wright, | William Terrill, |
| Reuben Colvin, | Lt. Simeon Hatha- | John Smith, | Noah Beach, |
| Elyphelet Stickney, | way, | Jesse Belknap, | Simeon Sears, |
| Daniel Prude, | Aaron Miller, | Silvanus Brown, | David Robinson, |
| Benj. Holmes, | John Fay, | John Forbes, | Joseph Safford, |
| James Marivater, | Elijah Fay, | Stephen Williams, | Isaac Webster. |
| ---mer Alger, | Joseph Fay, | William Post, | |

III.

(Referred to on page 24.)

BENNINGTON, MAY 1ST, 1778.

I promise on parole of honor to return in one fortnight to Capt. Sam'l Robinson, unless sickness prevents, and then to return as soon as able or ordered otherways by the Hon. Council, or special Court of the North Half Shire of this County of Bennington, on pain of suffering death.

Witness my hand,
TIMOTHY RULL.

IV.

(Referred to on page 24.)

Received of Samuel Robinson, five dollars of plunder money, Bennington, September 23d, 1777.

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Robert Cochran, | Simeon Sears, | Elisha Wright, |
| Gideon Spencer, | Peter Mansfield, | Samuel Bidlecome, |
| Thomas Abel, | Edward Henderson, | Benjamin Whipple, Jun., |
| Nathaniel Lawrence, | Jared Post, | Stephen Williams, |
| Moses Scott, | William Post, | Ammi Fuller, |
| Joseph Kellogg, | Aaron Hubbell, | Aaron Smith, |
| Daniel Prude, | Amos Fassett, | Samuel Safford, Jr., |
| Rufus Branch, | Samuel Hewes, | Jehosephat Holmes, |
| Benj. Holmes, | Rosel Post, | John Weeks, |
| Thomas Selden, | John Lawrence, | Simeon Hathaway, |
| Elisha Smith, | Jehiel Smith, | Ezekiel Brewster, |
| William Terrill, | Silvanus Brown, | Levi Hathaway, |
| Solomon Leason, | Jonas Hopkins, | Jeremiah Bingham, |
| John Kipron, | John Clark, | Solomon Safford, |
| Jonah Brewster, | *Widow Walbridge, | Archibald Tupper, |
| John Marble, | Phineas Wright, | Absalom Tupper. |
| Ephraim Marble, | Samuel Holmes, | |
| Gersham Beach, | John Smith, | |

*The Widow of Henry Walbridge, killed in the battle.

V.

(Referred to on page 25.)

The statement in the text was made on the authority of the following passage in the memoir of Stark published at Concord, N. H., by Luther Roby:—

“In this State, [New Hampshire] many years ago, the articles [i. e. the trophy from Bennington] were known to be boxed in the care of the Commissary General. Inquiry has been lately made at Portsmouth and the articles cannot be found! It is reported that they were sold at auction several years ago.” [Note on page 193.]

This statement is at most of but partial truth. Since delivering the address, on a visit to the State House in Concord, New Hampshire, I have seen a portion of Stark's trophy still hanging near the entrance of the Library. The articles there preserved are the brass drum, two brass horns,—as well as a cartridge box or pouch. It should seem that the cartridges were laid loosely in a leathern bag, instead of being each thrust into a hole or socket. All the pieces but the horns are in good condition. The cartridge box and drum are ornamented with figures of horses on the gallop,—perhaps the heraldic insignia of Hesse,—yet an unfit emblem of a corps which consumed thirty-three hours in making a forced march of twenty-two miles. At the four corners of the cartridge box there are also figures of grenades just exploding. From this badge on their accoutrements the name, grenadier, was doubtless derived.

MR. HOUGHTON'S ADDRESS.

ADDRESS.

MR. PRESIDENT, GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

It is proper to state to the dignified bodies, in compliance with whose invitation I have the unexpected honor to appear in this Hall, that the address, which I am about to pronounce, was prepared for delivery before "The Vermont Historical and Antiquarian Society."

The main features of my address, I trust, are in keeping with the train of thought naturally suggested by the presence of the memorials of the gallant bravery of our forefathers. This circumstance has, undoubtedly, prompted an act of courtesy, which transfers me from the customary scene of historical discourses to this Hall of Legislation.

This announcement may possibly prevent the statement of facts and comments thereon, in which I shall indulge, from being regarded as ill-suited to the proprieties of the occasion which has assembled us together this evening.

The spirit, embodied in the act by which the "Vermont Historical and Antiquarian Society" was incorporated, has its birth in that curiosity, which prompts to an inquiry into the lives and adventures of their ancestry. Men of leisure, pleased with the recreation which such investigations afford, gladly push their researches beyond the period in which written memorials are preserved, and carefully scrutinize the authenticity of such events as are entrusted to memory or oral tradition. If it be true that the new world cannot, of necessity, yield scope so ample for antiquarian research as the old world with its immemorial systems and time-honored institutions, yet archeological enthusiasts in our midst can be profitably busied in seeking among the vestiges of the past for those truths, which it is the peculiar province of history to exhibit and illustrate. In this way, Antiquarianism must be recognized

with gifts to render signal service to his country in times of peril, must, of necessity, be distinguished from his fellow men. Any apology for examining into those gifts and characteristics would be superfluous. From such an examination, conducted without prepossession or prejudice, we are enabled to determine the idea that was uppermost in the public mind when those gifts and characteristics were forced into active requisition. I adhere to the doctrine, to which Time has affixed his imprimatur, that the sentiments which lie deepest in the heart, or the controlling opinions which sway the mind, of a people will surely betray themselves in their public deeds and words. In other language, the national idea must sooner or later find utterance in the Acts of a nation—must find a voice in its Literature and impress itself upon its Laws!

Prior to the first civilized establishment within the present limits of this State, the whole of the territory, now known as VERMONT, had been in the undisputed possession of the red man. Here the Iroquois, the Coosucks, a branch of the St. Francis tribe of Indians, pursued the pleasures of the chase. They regarded the country as more suitable for a hunting ground than for a permanent residence. Before the erection of Fort Dummer, in the township of Brattleboro', no settlement had been effected by the white man. Vermont seemed to be, during the Colonial and Indian wars, a debateable ground on which many a guerilla battle was fought. Situated, as it was, equi-distant from the Franco-Canadians, with their savage colleagues on the one hand, and the Anglo-Americans, on the other, it was constantly exposed to the incursions and depredations of both. The dense forests of the Green Mountains became the favorite lurking places of the wielders of the tomahawk, and resounded with the war-whoop of those savages who were willing to be allies for either of the contending parties. For these reasons, actual settlements were impracticable and perilous; and it was not until the year 1760 that civilized establishments were found upon the banks of the River Connecticut. The scantiness of the population cannot be attributed to any other cause than the local situation of Vermont with respect to the various Indian nations which prevented its becoming a permanent residence for the red man, in earlier times, and afterwards prevented its being settled by the French and English during the Colonial Wars.

The fertility and value of the lands lying between the present geographic limits of Vermont, however, had become widely known. During the French war, a road had been opened by the New England troops from Charlestown in New Hampshire, to Crown Point in New York, and, by passing frequently through these lands, their character had been, of course, determined. When the final conquest of Canada had removed one of the dangerous obstacles in the way of settling in this part of New England, these lands were eagerly sought for by those who wished to own the land they cultivated and to cultivate the lands they owned.

Land-titles, at that date, were granted under Letters Patent from the Crown by BENNING WENTWORTH, the then Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Province of New Hampshire. That Province claimed and exercised jurisdiction over territory extending from the West bank of the Connecticut River to a point esteemed to be twenty miles East of the river Hudson, so far as that river extended to the Northward, and after that, as far Westward as Lake Champlain. By the year 1761, no less than 60 townships were granted on the West side of the Connecticut River, and within a year or two from that date, the whole number of grants had amounted to one hundred and thirty-eight.* *

Upon the fees and other emoluments which Gov. WENTWORTH received as compensation for those grants, the Government of New York looked with an envious eye. Inasmuch as the Governor of New Hampshire reserved five hundred acres of land in every township for himself, he was evidently laying the basis of an immense fortune. Wishing to thwart all such covetous procedure, and desirous of the profit arising from the sale of those lands, CADWALLADER COLDEN, Esq., Lieut. Governor of His Majesty's Province of New York, on the 28th December, 1763, issued a proclamation, "commanding the Sheriff of the County of Albany to make a return of the names of all persons who have taken possession of lands under New Hampshire grants," and claiming jurisdiction as far East as Connecticut River, by virtue of grants made by Charles II. to the Duke of York in 1664 and 1674.

*See appendix.

At this period of time, came from the Colony of Old Connecticut, from the town of Woodbury, in the County of Litchfield, the young Pioneer who was destined to take a prominent part in the various controversies and struggles which were incident to the early settlement of a new State. The parents of this Pioneer had purchased a tract of land in the township of Bennington, and, about the year 1763, had removed with their family to that town. He was distinguished in his youth, as he was afterwards in his manhood, for the "solidity and extent of his understanding."—With no other scholastic advantages than such as a common school education afforded, yet those advantages were employed to the best possible purpose; and, at his majority, he was possessed of a fund of knowledge, which was as serviceable as if it had been obtained in the classic walks of Harvard, or under the elms of Yale.

Coming to the State of Vermont, as SETH WARNER did, while the soil was yet but poorly tilled, while the forests were unleared, while no school-house or church had been erected, there was, it would seem to us, but little to encourage the mind of that Connecticut boy to become a resident among the Green Mountains. But the rivers, lakes and ponds were filled with large quantities of excellent fish. The forests abounded with every variety of game, and in the dells and on the hills could be seen flowers of rare excellence and beauty. "Solomon in all his glory was never arrayed like one of these." Young WARNER was a skillful botanist. He sought, partly from necessity and chiefly from choice, to render himself familiar with such plants and roots as were indigenous to Vermont. We are assured that no man acquired more information touching the nature and properties of such natural productions than he. With such invaluable knowledge he was exceedingly useful in new settlements, where he could administer relief when medical assistance could not easily be obtained.

Young WARNER was a huntsman too. The ready pen of that romance-writer, who cordially sympathizes with every effort to learn the character of the early settlers of this State, represents him under the character of Col. WARRINGTON as a successful lover of the pleasures of the chase. Traveling back eighty years, if we wish to see him as he was, we find him an inhabitant of one of the rude cabins that were thinly scattered through the wilderness. We observe him felling the forest, or tilling the soil which

had never been touched by any hand before. There will be found around his shieling, unbroken silence, save when the stroke of his axe awakens the echo, or the howl of the wolf disturbs the dull ear of midnight. In the midst of all his labors, as well as his pastime, he is compelled to be ready with the loaded musket to repel the lurking savage. "You see a man of a very fine, and even majestic, appearance. Though tall and muscular, so compactly and finely set are his limbs that his contour presented nothing to the eye in the least disproportioned or ungainly. His features seem to correspond in regularity of formation to the rest of his person, while his countenance is rather of the cool and deliberate cast, indicative, however, of a mild, benevolent, disposition, as well as a sound, and reflecting intellect. Every development, indeed, whether of his shapely head or manly countenance, goes to show a strong, well-balanced character, and one capable of action beyond the scope of ordinary men."*

It is said by cotemporaries who have seen him at the head of his brave "Green Mountain Rangers," armed and equipped for duty, that no man could bestride a horse with more grace and dignity than he. With a broad and intellectual forehead, relieved with a profusion of nut-brown hair, and with sparkling blue eyes beaming forth under eye-brows most beautifully arched, his physiognomy gave unmistakable signs of an intelligent, courageous and energetic man.

Such was the skillful huntsman and the practical botanist, before the blast of War blew in the ears of the early settlers of the New Hampshire Grants. Continuing to use his quick eye-sight and steady arm in hunting after game in the forests, and indulging his scientific taste in the dells and dingles where medicinal plants were most abundant, he became widely known as one upon whose usefulness and humanity, reliance could be reposed. And thus was laid the basis of that reputation which, in aftertimes, rendered him so influential and powerful for good when "the slings and arrows of outrageous Fortune" were hurttled at those who, like himself, had pitched their tents among the green hills of Vermont. Here, among the mountains and valleys of the so called "Switzerland of

*See the "Green Mountain Boys," page 18.

America," the love of Nature shone in his soul, as undying lustre glistens in the diamonds which sparkle in the diadem of Beauty! Here, in the valleys of Vermont, through which messages are now sent by the aid of a power which outstrips even the sun in its flight, and here, among the mountains, where the iron-horse now puffs its way, with untold wealth following reluctantly in its wake, once lived and loved that man whose heart overflowed with the love of Freedom for which all huntsmen are proverbial, and whose soul was fired with that enthusiasm which burns brightly and gloriously in the breast of every devotee of Natural History. Truly this Vermont was a fit place to nurture such qualities of the head and heart.

"Hail, land of Green Mountains! whose valleys and streams
Are as fair as the muse ever pictured in dreams;
Where the stranger oft sighs with emotion sincere,—
Ah! would that my own native home had been here!"

"Hail, land of the lovely, the equal, the brave,
Never trod by the foe, never tilled by the slave;
Where the love of the world to the hamlet is brought,
And speech is as free as the pinions of thought."

The controversy between the Governors of New York and New Hampshire, relative to jurisdiction over the territory now constituting the State of Vermont, was, meanwhile, in no wise abated.—That there was an acrimonious spirit gradually growing up between the two Colonies, the following extract from Gov. WENTWORTH'S Proclamation will demonstrate:

"For political reasons, the claims to jurisdiction by New York might have been deferred, as well as the strict inquisition on the civil power to exercise jurisdiction in their respective functions as far as the Eastern banks of Connecticut River.—

* * * To the end, therefore, that the grantees now settled and settling on those lands under His late and present Majesty's charters may not be intimidated, or any way hindered or obstructed in the improvement of the lands so granted, as well as to ascertain the right and maintain the jurisdiction of His Majesty's government of New Hampshire as far Westward as to include the grants made:

I have thought fit, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Council to issue this Proclamation, hereby encouraging the several grantees, claiming under this Government, to be industrious in clearing and cultivating their lands agreeably to their respective grants.

And I do hereby require and command all civil officers within the Province, of what quality soever, as well those that are not, as those that are inhabitants on the said lands, to continue and be diligent in exercising jurisdiction in their respective offices, as far Westward as grants of land have been made by this Government; and to deal with any person or persons that may presume to interrupt the inhabitants or settlers on said lands as to law and justice do appertain; the pretended right of jurisdiction mentioned in the aforesaid Proclamation notwithstanding.

Given at the Council Chamber in Portsmouth, the 13th day of March, 1764, and in the fourth year of His Majesty's reign.

B. WENTWORTH.

The controversy, thus begun by gubernatorial proclamation, was

continued with much bitterness for a period of fifteen years. In 1764, the matter in question was decided by Imperial decree in favor of New York, and the claim of that government to jurisdiction extending to the East as far as Connecticut river, was confirmed. "His Majesty was pleased, with the advice of his Privy Council, to approve of what is therein proposed, and doth accordingly hereby order and declare the Western banks of the Connecticut river, from where it enters the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, as far North as the 45th degree of North latitude, *to be* the boundary line between the said two Provinces of New Hampshire and New York. Wherefore, the respective Governors and Commanders of his Majesty's said Provinces of New Hampshire and New York, for the time being, and all others whom it may concern, are to take notice of His Majesty's pleasure and govern themselves accordingly."

To this royal decree, different and widely variant construction was given. The settlers on the New Hampshire Grants considered that its fair operation was to place them under the *future* jurisdiction of New York. The government of that Colony, on the contrary, contended that the order had a retroactive and retrospective bearing, and determined not only what *should be*, but what *always had been*, the geographic limits of the Colony of New York. The settlers on the New Hampshire Grants inferred that the royal decree could in no wise affect their land-titles, or any past contracts. The New York authorities, taking a different view of the royal decision, insisted that the grants made by the government of New Hampshire were unauthorized by the Crown, and were, of course, illegal and consequently void. If the same interpretation had been given to the royal decree by the authorities of both Colonies, all historians unite in saying there would have arisen no controversy like that which was carried on with great acrimony from the year 1763 to 1775.

The order of the 20th July 1764, created disaffection among the settlers on the New Hampshire Grants, of whom SETH WARNER was an acknowledged leader. At the outset, the order was regarded as extending the jurisdiction of New York over their territory, commencing with the date of said decree; and in this they were willing to acquiesce. But not apprehensive that the titles

Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Province of New York, for the time being, upon pain of His Majesty's highest displeasure, not to presume to make any grant whatsoever of any part of the lands described in the Report of the Board of Trade, until His Majesty's further pleasure concerning the same shall be known."

This prohibition was explicit enough. The Governor of New York continued, however, to make further grants. Writs of ejectment were prayed out by lawyers, whose bread depended upon "fat contentions and flowing fees," and inasmuch as no *legal* defence was tolerated, the settlers were driven to the *last* resort, as the only remaining alternative.

"Hitherto," say the Vermont State papers, "New York had founded her claim to the lands in question, on the grant to the Duke of York. Not choosing, however, longer to rely on so precarious a tenure, application was made to the Crown for a confirmation of the claim. This application was supported by a petition, *purporting* to be signed by a great number of the settlers on the New Hampshire grants, representing that it would be for their advantage to be annexed to the Colony of New York, and praying that the Western bank of Connecticut river might be established as the Eastern boundary of that Province."

In an article in the Connecticut Courant, published in April, 1772, there is a frank, and perhaps just, commentary on the strategy employed by the then Albany Regency, to acquire jurisdiction over the New Hampshire Grants. I transcribe the gist of said publication, as throwing some light on the subject of my present discourse:—

* * * * "The fallacious policy, made use of in New York to obtain the jurisdiction, has given great umbrage to the said inhabitants. The Yorkers sent spies through the said country, and by one pretence or other, found out the names of the said inhabitants, and then, unknown to them, affixed their several names to a petition requesting His Majesty and Council to confirm and annex them to the Province of New York. This legerdemain was undoubtedly the cause of their extending their jurisdiction to the banks of Connecticut river. If so, it is probable, as the evidence of this fact was sent to His Majesty and Council last Summer, it will be the cause why His Majesty and Council should alter the jurisdiction to New Hampshire.

"Again; be this as it will, the unreasonable and inhumane use the Yorkers have made of the powers of jurisdiction since they obtained it, has given more trouble, disquietude and uneasiness than their first detestable way of obtaining it. Certain designing men in New York, having purchased patents from that Province and lapped them on patents antecedently granted under the great seal of the Province of New Hampshire—which antecedent patents were settled by the New Hampshire grantees, prior to the dates of said patents under the great seal of the Province of New York, notwithstanding the New York grantees have brought sundry writs of ejectment against the New Hampshire grantees and actual settlers, and having

obtained judgment against them, proceeded further and took out writs of possession as they called them, and by order of Law actually dispossessed sundry of said inhabitants, grantees as aforesaid, of their houses and farms, leaving them to suffer the inclemency of the weather, and deprived of all the necessaries of life. Their new masters having taken and monopolized their earthly all to themselves, these indigent families having in the first place expended their several fortunes in bringing their said farms out of a wilderness state into that of fruitful fields, gardens and orchards. The whole country, consisting of more than fifteen hundred families, was greatly alarmed at the event which had begun to take place, was in great consternation—each individual reading their own intolerable destruction from that which had already begun. Still the writs of ejectment coming thick and faster—women sobbing and lamenting, children crying, and men pierced to the heart with sorrow and indignation at the approaching tyranny of New York. Meanwhile, a high-spirited man took a small ox-goad and coolly belabored one of the officers, who had gloried much in being the instrument of the New York oppression.—Zeal taking fire from this example, in the breasts of great numbers of the people, the officers perceived that it was not safe for them to serve writs of ejectment upon the people, but more in special they were in hazard if they presumed to dispossess the people of their houses and lands. Though in any matters of debt by note, promise or book, or in fine for any sort of exercise of authority, except depriving people of their country, or had a direct and apparent tendency thereto, officers did, and at this time do officiate in office as unmolested, nay, actually assisted when they desire it, as in any plantation in English America.

Strange! G— Tryon should tax the said inhabitants of riotousness, faction and disobedience, in every instance, "that they oppose every legal process," &c., as if his soul doted on such a sort of demeanor and obedience from said inhabitants, as would give him and his favorites peaceable possession and enjoyment of their whole country, which they have, by their money and labor, made vastly valuable—having metamorphosed it from the condition of a howling wilderness into villages and fruitful plantations. This is flagrantly that sort of loyalty and this sort of jurisdiction aimed at by Gov. Tryon and his associates.

Providence has hitherto mightily protected Bennington and the Northern settlements from the policy and ravages of New York, when the invisible posse made their appearance at that town last Summer. God overruled it for good * * * for the Sheriff's party, when they saw the industry of the people, and were informed how they firstly purchased the lands and paid their money for the same to one of His Majesty's Governors, the generality of the Sheriff's party declared that they would rather be accessory to oppose the Sheriff, than to dispossess the people.—Furthermore, there was a strong party of volunteers, well armed, from the Bay Province, and though they were willing to defend their settlers from the jaws of the Yorkers even by force of arms, yet they were much more rejoiced to see so generous a spirit in the Sheriff's party, so that that fray seemed to open the eyes of great numbers of the people, both in the Province of New York and the Bay Province, and convince them of the Justice of the cause in which the settlers were engaged.

There is one more sort of cunning made use of by New York, which is to make such a use of their jurisdiction as to make presentment of every sensible, bold-spirited man who adheres closely to the maintaining the property of their lands; and there have been many occasions to either oppose the Sheriff in dispossessing the people, or opposing the officers in their attempt to take such of the people as they are pleased to enroll rioters. By these means, they enroll most of the country. Self-preservation makes it necessary that the said inhabitants hold together and defend themselves against this execrable cunning of New York, for otherwise the Yorkers would so punish and bring to poverty every patriotic, generous and valiant man on their lands, that the residue of the faint-hearted and ignorant people would be by them enslaved into such measures as tyranny and avarice should dictate. It is altogether impossible for the people who have settled their lands to demean themselves as good and faithful subjects of that Province, in their sense of it, so long as they refuse to yield the property of their lands to the intrigues of New York. I am fully of the opinion that the brave people will hold out to the end as they have done, and so for the future they will maintain their possessions.*

*See a Report of a Committee of Council about laws on the West side of Connecticut river, in the Appendix.



SETH WARNER was no idle spectator during these exciting times. Whether he would yield up his property to a set of land-sharks, or make forcible resistance, was a question upon which he took but little time to ponder. He advocated *resistance*: and warmly approved of the proceedings of that Convention which assembled at Bennington and—

“*Resolved*, To support their rights and property under the New Hampshire Grants against the usurpation and unjust claims of the Governor and Council of New York *by force*, as law and justice were denied them.”

This resolution was zealously supported; spirited and determined resistance to the authority of New York ensued. Several of the inhabitants of the grants were indicted as rioters. “A military association,” says a cotemporaneous writer, “was formed, of which ETHAN ALLEN was appointed Colonel Commandant, and SETH WARNER, REMEMBER BAKER, ROBERT COCHRAN, GIDEON WARNER, and some others, were appointed Captains. Committees of Safety were, likewise, appointed in several towns West of the Green Mountains.”

The Sheriff of the County of Albany, to whom was entrusted the duty of enforcing writs of possession, enjoyed an office which could hardly be denominated a sinecure. Whenever he appeared upon the grants with his *posse comitatus*—often numbering 750 men, all told—he was sure of being met by a party equally numerous, and determined to frustrate his object. Of such parties SETH WARNER and ETHAN ALLEN were the active leaders and Captains; and a Proclamation was accordingly issued by the Governor of New York, offering “a reward of £150 for the apprehension of ETHAN ALLEN, and £50 each for WARNER and five others.” Determined to return the compliment promptly, ALLEN and WARNER, and the other outlaws, issued a counter Proclamation “offering *five* pounds for the apprehension and delivery to any officer of the Green Mountain Boys, of the Attorney General of New York.”

It will be borne in mind that the resolutions, adopted by the Conventions of the people, were regarded as the law of the New Hampshire Grants. Every infraction of the law thus made, was followed by a punishment of great severity. That most frequently inflicted, was the application to the naked back of the “Beech Seal,” and perpetual banishment from the Grants. The sentence

of BEN HOUGH will serve my purpose as a sample of the punishment then in vogue. History tells us that BEN was a violent "Yorker," and resided near Clarendon. Receiving, by dint of importunity, an appointment of Justice of the Peace within and for the County of Charlotte, from the government of New York, he was not content with the simple honor of the appointment. He seemed to be anxious to distinguish himself in the new position to which the partiality of the New York authorities had promoted him. And, certainly, he gained distinction ;—but such distinction as might well be dispensed with, by all those who prefer the honors of a private station, to the unenviable notoriety of cutting a most ludicrous figure on the page of History.

After obtaining his commission, he promptly proceeded to execute the duties of his newly acquired office. He received, but disregarded, the warning to desist which was served upon him by the "Committee of Safety." Being found incorrigible, he was arrested and carried before a Committee consisting of ETHAN ALLEN, SETH WARNER, and others who were proclaimed as outlaws. "The decree of the Convention," says Thompson's History, "and the charges of the prisoner being read in his presence, he acknowledged that he had been active in promoting the passage of a certain law, and in the discharge of his duty as a Magistrate ; but pleaded the jurisdiction of New York over the Grant, in justification of his conduct."

But, sad to relate, although BEN's dilatory plea was, under ordinary circumstances, worthy of consideration, this Committee disregarded it and pronounced upon him the following sentence, viz :—

"That the prisoner be taken from the bar of this Committee of Safety, and be tied to a tree, and then on his naked back, receive two hundred stripes ; his back being dressed, he should depart out of the district, and on return without special leave of the Convention, to suffer death."

This sentence was carried into execution in the presence of a large concourse of people : and at his request the following certificate was furnished for his future reference :—



“SUNDERLAND, 30th January, 1775.

This may certify the inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants, that BENJAMIN HOUGH hath this day received a full punishment for his crimes committed heretofore against this country; and our inhabitants are ordered to give him, the said HOUGH, a free and unmolested passport toward the city of New York, or to the Westward of our Grants, he behaving himself as becometh.

Given under our hands the day and date aforesaid.

ETHAN ALLEN,
SETH WARNER.”

When this paper was handed to BEN, ALLEN observed that the certificate, *together with the receipt on his back*, would, no doubt, be admitted as legal evidence before the Supreme Court and the Governor and Council of New York, although, in several instances, to his knowledge, the King's warrant to Gov. WENTWORTH and His Excellency's sign manual, with the Great Seal of the Province of New Hampshire, would not.*

Living, as their descendants now do, in the enjoyment of just and equal laws, and in times when such penalties are never inflicted, it is no slight task to form a proper estimate of the measures now under review. Those who regard them as severe must bear in mind that, aside from the alternative of surrendering their farms, which their industry had made to blossom as the rose, or a determined resistance by force, the settlers on the New Hampshire Grants were made to feel the rigor of laws more tyrannical and sanguinary than can readily be found in any other code than that of Draco.

I now quote from an extraordinary law enacted on the 9th of March, 1774, by the General Assembly of New York :

“SECTION 5. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that, if any person or persons, within the said counties or either of them, not being lawfully authorized a judge, justice or magistrate, shall assume judicial power, or shall try, fine, sentence or condemn any person who shall either be absent or shall unlawfully or forcibly be seized, taken, or brought before him or them for trial or punishment; or if any person or persons shall aid or assist in such illegal proceedings, or shall enforce, execute or carry the same into effect; or if any person or persons shall, unlawfully seize, detain or confine, or assault and beat any magistrate or civil officer, for, or in respect of any act or proceeding in the due exercise of his function, or in order to compel him to resign, remove or surcease his commission or authority, or to terrify, hinder, or prevent him from performing and discharging the duties thereof; * * * * * that then, each of the said offences respectively be adjudged felony without benefit of clergy; and the offenders therein shall be adjudged felons, *and shall suffer death as in cases of felony without benefit of clergy.*”

It was made the duty of the Governor to publish the names of such persons in the *New York Gazette & Weekly Mercury*, as

*See Appendix.

should be indicted for any capital offence, with an order in Council commanding such offenders to surrender themselves within seventy days after the publication thereof, *under the penalty of being convicted of felony and to suffer death without benefit of clergy!!*

With the passage of such a law as this, every prospect of reconciliation and submission to the claims of New York evaporated. The New Hampshire grantees, suspecting the action of the New York authorities to originate in the avarice of a set of speculators who coveted their lands—knowing that the people of New York felt no disposition to aid in enforcing such claims—satisfied that the popular sentiment was highly favorable to the rights of the settlers—and being aware, from past experience, that the militia of the Colony could never be induced to contend against them—regarded with contempt every threat or legal enactment intended to inspire terror. “Indeed,” say the Vermont State Papers, “the idea of *submission* seems never for a moment to have occupied the attention of the handful of brave men against whom these measures were directed. Educated in the school of adversity, and inured to hardship and danger, they met and sustained the shock with a firm, unbroken spirit.”

“Let it not be said that the infliction of this barbarous punishment proves that the people of the Grants were less civilized than the people of other parts of New England; for long afterwards this relic of barbarism was found in the criminal code of all the States; but a more advanced state of civilization has since broken up the habit by which it had been continued through generations of civilized man, and it has been exploded never again to find a place in the code of any of the American States.”*

Aside from the reasons heretofore given for retaliation on the part of the Green Mountain Boys, it need not escape remembrance that as necessity drove them to resistance, so sound policy would naturally dictate that such resistance should be of a character to inspire a full and firm belief that it would be effectual.

The New Hampshire grantees were by no means so engrossed with their own troubles as to be indifferent to the policy pursued by the Mother Country towards her Colonies in America. As the

*Memoir of Col. SETH WARNER, by the Hon. DANIEL CHIPMAN.

settlers were chiefly emigrants from Connecticut and Massachusetts, they sympathized with the feeling of discontent which pervaded those Colonies. Those residing on Connecticut River, who had surrendered their original charters and taken out new grants under the broad seal of New York, and had submitted to the jurisdiction of that Colony, were comparatively unconcerned spectators of that bitter controversy in which the grantees on the West side of the Mountains were interested. The massacre, as it was called, of the 13th of March, at Westminster Court House, however, exasperated them and raised a tumult of opposition to New York. At a meeting of Committees appointed by a large body of inhabitants on the East side of the range of Green Mountains, held at Westminster on the 11th day of April, 1775, it was

“ *Voted*, That it is the duty of said inhabitants, as predicated on the eternal and immutable law of self-preservation, to wholly renounce and resist the administration of the government of New York, till such time as the lives and property of those inhabitants may be secured by it ; or till such time as they can have opportunity to lay their grievances before his Most Gracious Majesty in Council, together with a proper remonstrance against the unjustifiable conduct of that government ; with an humble petition to be taken out of so oppressive a jurisdiction, and, either annexed to some other government, or erected and incorporated into a new one, as may appear best to the said inhabitants, to the Royal wisdom and clemency, and till such time as his Majesty shall settle this controversy.”

It has been my purpose to present from the historical memoranda, letters and other valuable manuscripts which I have been permitted to examine, such facts and data as will give a correct view of this most interesting controversy. A complete narrative of that period of history remains a desideratum, which will possibly be hereafter supplied by some authentic writer, who is willing to labor diligently and master many of those secret manœuvres, which now greatly puzzle those who are most familiar with the various phases of that important period.

I have designed—not, I fear, without being very tedious—to describe the feeling which swayed the entire population of Vermont, before the attention of its inhabitants was engrossed with another more important subject. What would have been the result of that controversy, if the minds of the grantees had not been directed from its consideration, it is not easily conjectured. The controversy with New York was arrested by the commencement of the REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

On the 19th day of April, A. D. 1775, there was a serious conflict between Old England and her American Colonies. The at-

tention of New Yorkers and Green Mountain Boys was diverted from their land difficulties, their beech-seal certificates, and their midnight riots, to a higher and more important controversy, involving the independence of the whole American People!—Soft words had been followed by hard blows, and England had degenerated so much from the proud spirit which ennobled the breasts of HAMPDEN and MILTON, as to wage a bloody war with Liberty—that principle of power, of heroism, of hope, without which not even the self-styled “Mistress of the World” could be great or good. It is not amiss to say, in this connection, that Poetry can dwell in no soul, Eloquence can escape from no lips, Patriotism can dictate no worthy deed, and Heroic Goodness can never bud, bloom and blossom, without the mild light, the genial warmth and ruddy glow, of Liberty. He, whose chariots are the clouds, who rideth upon the wings of the wind, whose ministers are a flaming fire—who meteth out the earth as it were a span, who holds the world in the hollow of His hand, hath so written His unalterable decree.

“’Tis *Liberty* alone that gives the flower
Of fleeting life its lustre and perfume;
And we are weeds without it!”

On that memorable day, was blown a trumpet-blast which heralded the advent of the North American Union. On that day was begun, in the words of the “Sage of Quincy,” now sleeping with his fathers, “the struggle for chartered rights—for the cause of ALGERNON SIDNEY and JOHN HAMPDEN—for trial by jury—the Habeas Corpus and Magna Charta.”

At this period, prominent and, in fact, *foremost* among the Green Mountain Boys, stood SETH WARNER. I am aware, that his exploits have not been duly commemorated. Clio, the Muse of glory and of history, whose attributes are a wreath of laurel upon her head, a trumpet in her right hand and a roll of papyrus in her left, has been too much occupied in dancing and singing with Apollo and his little group in more genial climates, to pay a proper tribute to his memory.

“No bard embalms and sanctifies *his* song—
And History, so warm on other themes,
Is cold on this.”

Up to the time of this present speaking, nothing, save a few obitu-



ary notices of him, and a short biographical sketch in the *Rural Magazine*, printed in 1795, has been published ; and so the light of his fame has been suffered to be hid.

It is to be hoped that the venerable gentleman—the Hon. DANIEL CHIPMAN—whose learned leisure is spent in the solitude of the mountains of Ripton, and who is devoting the residue of his chequered life to rescuing the memory of departed patriots from impending oblivion, will be successful in his noble endeavor to attract public attention to the merits of this modest and energetic lover of his country. If he succeed in securing from his countrymen justice, on his behalf, his literary enterprize must command, as it will deserve, the gratitude of every admirer of heroism and the thanks of every lover of letters.*

No man was more ardent in his love of freedom and good order, more unyielding in his hostility to tyranny in all of its manifestations, and more frank and bold in the expression of his political opinions, than SETH WARNER. But, unlike his colleague, ETHAN ALLEN, he had no talent nor ambition as a writer of political pamphlets. He possessed a vigorous intellect, and was gifted with an uncommon share of self-possession—qualities which enabled him to gain and retain the confidence of all persons within the pale of his influence.

By way of illustrating the character of those times, and the personal popularity of SETH WARNER, I am tempted, even at the risk of unpardonable prolixity, to quote an account of the recruiting of a Regiment on the New Hampshire Grants, and the appointment of the field officers, as found in the first Volume of “*American Biography*,” by JARED SPARKS, page 288 :

“The troops from Connecticut, under Colonel HINMAN, at length arrived at Ticonderoga, and Colonel ALLEN’S command ceased. His men chiefly returned home, their term of service having expired. He and SETH WARNER set off on a journey to the Continental Congress, with a design of procuring pay for the soldiers who had served under them, and of soliciting authority to raise a new regiment on the New Hampshire Grants. In both these objects, they were successful. By an order of Congress, they were

*See Appendix.

introduced on the floor of the House, and they communicated verbally to the members such information as was desired. Congress voted to allow the men, who had been employed in taking and garrisoning Ticonderoga and Crown Point, the same pay as was received by officers and privates in the American army; and, also recommended to the Provincial Congress of New York, that, after consulting with General SCHUYLER, 'they should employ in the army to be raised for the defence of America, those called Green Mountain Boys, under such officers as the said Green Mountain Boys should choose.' This matter was referred to the Government of New York, that no controversy might arise about jurisdiction, at a time when affairs of vastly greater moment demanded the attention of all parties. ALLEN and WARNER repaired without delay to the New York Congress, presented themselves at the door of the Hall and requested an audience,—the resolve of the Continental Congress having already been received and discussed.

“An embarrassing difficulty now arose among the members, which caused much warmth of debate. The persons who asked admittance were outlaws, by an existing act of the Legislature of New York, and, although the Provincial Congress was a distinct body from the old assembly, organized in opposition to it, and holding its recent principles and doings in detestation, yet some members had scruples on the subject of disregarding, in so palpable a manner, the laws of the land, as to join in public conference with men who had been proclaimed by the highest authority in the Colony to be rioters and felons. There was also another party, whose feelings and interest were enlisted on the side of their scruples, who had taken an active part in the contest, and whose antipathies were too deeply rooted to be at once eradicated: On the other hand, the ardent friends of liberty, who regarded the great cause at stake as paramount to every thing else, and who were willing to show their disrespect for the old assembly, argued not only the injustice but tyranny of the act in question, and represented, in strong colors, the extreme impolicy of permitting ancient feuds to mar the harmony and obstruct the concert of action, so necessary for attaining the grand object of the wishes and efforts of every member present. In the midst of the debate, Captain SEARS mov-





ed that ETHAN ALLEN should be admitted to the floor of the House. The motion was seconded by MELANCTHON SMITH, and was carried by a majority of two to one. A similar motion prevailed in regard to SETH WARNER. When these gentlemen had addressed the House they withdrew, and it was resolved that a regiment of Green Mountain Boys should be raised, not exceeding five hundred men, and to consist of seven companies.

“They were to choose their own officers, except the field officers, who were to be appointed by the Congress of New York; but it was requested that the people would nominate such persons as they approved. A Lieutenant Colonel was to be the highest officer. The execution of the resolve was referred to General SCHUYLER, who immediately gave notice to the inhabitants of the Grants, and ordered them to proceed in organizing the regiment.

“Meanwhile ALLEN and WARNER had finished their mission and returned to their friends. The Committees of several townships assembled at Dorset to choose officers for the new regiment. *The choice fell on SETH WARNER for Lieutenant Colonel, and on SAMUEL SAFFORD for Major.* This nomination was confirmed by the New York Congress.”

“ALLEN,” says CHIPMAN’S “Memoir of Seth Warner,” now printed but not yet published,* “was sometimes rash and imprudent. WARNER, on the other hand, never wrote anything for the public eye. He was modest and unassuming. He appeared to be satisfied with being useful, as he manifested no solicitude that his services should be known or appreciated. He was always cool and deliberate, and in his sound judgment, as well as in his energy, resolution and firmness, all classes had the most unlimited confidence.

“From the foregoing brief sketch of the very different characters of ALLEN and WARNER, it is evident that they were far more efficient and more useful in defending the New Hampshire Grants, than they would have been, had they both been ALLENS or both WARNERS, and it would not be extravagant to say, that had either been wanting, the independence of Vermont might not have been

*CHIPMAN’S Memoir of Seth Warner, pp. 35-6.

achieved. But in selecting a person to command a regiment, the men of that day gave the preference to WARNER. Accordingly, the Convention assembled at Dorset to nominate officers for a regiment of Green Mountain Boys, nominated WARNER for Lieutenant Colonel to command the regiment, by a vote of 41 to 5. And as ALLEN was a candidate for the office, as appears by his letter to Governor TRUMBULL written shortly after the officers were nominated, in which he says, that he was overlooked because the old men were reluctant to go to war, the vote must be considered as a fair expression of the public sentiment in relation to the qualifications of the two men for the office. This is confirmed by the few cotemporaries of ALLEN and WARNER who still survive, and by the traditionary accounts of the men of that day."

Without pausing to comment upon the fact that sufficient attention has not been paid to the eminent services of Col. WARNER, it may be proper to say that when the story of this period in the History of Vermont is written in detail, his exploits will not be forgotten.

Like many of the settlers upon the Grants, Col. WARNER was a man of an iron frame. He stood six feet three inches and three fourths in his stockings, and was possessed of rare physical strength and agility. Corresponding with such a body, his mind was active and resolute, and had been wrought to the exercise of its highest energies in a struggle involving everything dear to the heart of such a man. Having arrived at a conclusion, he was wanting neither in the courage nor the ability to carry his decision into prompt execution. He could endure *any* thing with more composure than *oppression*.

Entertaining such sentiments, which were never disguised, it excites in our minds no wonder that the New York authorities should have proscribed him as an outlaw. Such proscription, however, seemed to draw around the determined champion of freedom warm and devoted friends who clung to him more firmly as he was the more bitterly opposed. Among his friends, there obtained but one voice and one mind. Heterogeneous as that little band was in its composition, it could neither be intimidated nor flattered, neither be bought nor subdued.

There was burning in their bosoms one clear and never-dying





flame of freedom. A palpable principle of right being outraged, their property, by an unjustifiable judicial interpretation and decision, being jeopardized, they were startled into determined resistance. Under the guidance of SETH WARNER and his worthy colleague ETHAN ALLEN, they found no time, as they had no disposition, to whine or languish. No torpid numbness or chilling indifference crept over their faculties or clouded their minds. When any infringement upon their personal liberty or private property was attempted, a feeling of opposition sprang up in their breasts, and, instantaneously, like the passage of the electric fluid, a sympathetic determination to defend their rights stimulated them to action.

Gentlemen : These men were our ancestors. Their noble conduct, their patriotism, gained for us the rights and privileges of an independent sovereignty in this Republic, which we are now enjoying. And what, let me ask, in view of these circumstances, should *now* constitute this commonwealth ?

“ What constitutes a State ?
 Not high-raised battlements or labored mounds,
 Thick walls or moated gates,
 Not cities proud with spires and turrets crowned,
 Not bays and broad armed ports,
 Where laughing at the storm, rich navies ride ;
 But men—true-hearted men ;
 Men who their rights do know,
 And knowing dare maintain,
 These, these constitute a State.”

Gladly would I dwell on the military exploits of Col. WARNER—of the capture of Old Ticonderoga and Crown Point—of his bravery and daring in the Province of Canada—of his courage at the siege of Quebec—of his glorious services in the second battle of Bennington, but time and the proprieties of this occasion will not now permit. I have, however, in my custody a petition to Congress on behalf of the gallant Colonel, which, presenting as it does, a brief and correct summary of his services, ought to be preserved ; for it is a noble tribute to his memory from the pens and hearts of men who knew and appreciated his excellence as a *Soldier, Patriot and Man*.

“ BENNINGTON, July 7th, 1786.

To His Excellency the President of Congress :—

SIR :—We beg leave to give Congress a brief account of the services and sufferings of the late Col. SETH WARNER, particularly his sufferings which ap-

pear to have been immediately in consequence of his exposing himself in the service of his country in the late War, in which he was of the first that stepped forth in this quarter.

At the first reduction of Ticonderoga, St. Johns, &c., in A. D. 1775, he performed an active part. At Longueuil, in Canada, under the command of Gen. MONTGOMERY, in an action in which he commanded, his bravery and prudence were conspicuous and much applauded—which Gen. MONTGOMERY was pleased to testify by sundry letters. He was in the siege before Quebec and, in the course of the fatigues of this campaign and retreat, he received the first sensible injury to his health. In 1777, General SCHUYLER was pleased to order him on a particular command into Jessop's Patent, where, in the prosecution of the services of his command, he exposed himself so unreservedly as to take an effectual bane to his after health. Before this, he was of a most firm constitution, but ever after declined and became a prey of an inveterate and extraordinary disease which began now and fell into his feet and legs, and which continued to rage, baffling all attempts for a cure until it put an end to his life, December 26, A. D. 1784.

It is probable, had Col. WARNER at this time retired from the service, he might, in some good degree, have recovered his health; but it being the trying time of American affairs in this quarter, there was no room in a mind like his to attend to such a proposition and accordingly he persevered until his important and memorable actions at Hubbardton and Bennington.

After this, he began sensibly to decline, so that there remained but little prospect of his future usefulness. He, however, grappled with his disorder and continued in the service until receiving a wound from an ambush of Indians near Fort George, in September, A. D. 1780 (at which time the only two of his officers that were with him fell dead by his side,) he was obliged to retire for the last time a little before his Regiment was reduced. After this, his case became truly effecting, and himself a spectacle of human woes until death closed the scene.

With this account, we beg leave to recommend to the particular favor of Congress the Widow and fatherless children of the deceased, whose circumstances, as we are informed, are quite necessitous.

Sir, Your Excellency's very humble servants,
 THOMAS CHITTENDEN, SAMUEL SAFFORD,
 THOMAS TOLMAN, ISAAC TICHENOR,
 ETHAN ALLEN, STEPHEN R. BRADLEY,
 PAUL SPOONER, GIDEON BROWNSON,
 TIMOTHY BROWNSON, HEMAN SWIFT,
 SAMUEL CANFIELD."

And now, after the silver cord was loosed and the golden bowl was broken, in the little parish of Roxbury, in the town of Woodbury, near the banks of a stream which pays tribute to the river Housatonic, lie the remains of Col. SETH WARNER. He has plucked his last flower; he has bagged his last game; he has flogged his last Sheriff; he has fought his last battle!

"How are the Mighty fallen and the weapons of War perished!" This expressive text from the II. Samuel, ch. 2, v. 27, was appropriately discussed in a funeral discourse by the Rev. THOMAS CANFIELD, when his ashes were consigned to earth with all the honors of War, in a grave remote from the Grants he loved so well



and for whose sake he had yielded up his life in the bloom of manhood.

On a white marble memorial-stone in Roxbury, over which the moss has been suffered to grow, may now be deciphered with much pains-taking, the following inscription:—

IN MEMORY OF
COL. SETH WARNER, ESQUIRE,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE DECEMBER 26, A. D. 1784,
IN THE 42D YEAR OF HIS AGE.

“Triumphant leader at our armies’ head,
“Whose martial glory struck a panic dread;
“Thy warlike deeds engraven on this stone,
“Tell future ages what a hero’s done.
“Full sixteen battles he did fight,
“For to procure his country’s right;
“Oh! this brave hero, he did fall
“By death, who ever conquers all.

“WHEN THIS YOU SEE,
“REMEMBER ME.”

Biographical sketches and recitals from the lips of cotemporaries, give assurance that the visit of death, of old named “King of Terrors,” was caused by too constant toil and exposure on behalf of his country.* But the distressing maladies of his death-bed he bore with the fortitude of a soldier. There was solace to him, pending the agony of suffering, in the reflection that his labors were crowned with success. A source of grief, which obtruded itself upon his mind, was the consciousness that his widow and three children would be left destitute of the means of livelihood. The lands, which he once owned, had, while he was engaged in active service on behalf of his country, been sold for taxes; and the gore in Essex County, granted to his heirs by the General Assembly of Vermont in 1787, was found to be of little or no value, and remains unsettled to the present time. Col. WARNER was so much engrossed with the patriotic passion that he omitted saving his own land while he could save his country.

Regret, however, was unavailing then. Disease in an aggravated form, had fastened its fangs upon his system, and death had put his gripe upon his body. He was not permitted to die in his senses. Prior to his decease, he was the victim of a raging delirium; and, in his wild imagining, fancied himself at the head

*See Appendix.

of his regiment of Rangers, and, on his dying couch, restrained by a constant guard of able-bodied men, he would fight his battles over again. The preternatural strength, with which he was endowed, decreased, at last, with the progress of his insidious malady, and the skillful botanist, whose prescriptions had prolonged the lives of others, could not restore his own reason or save his own life. The practised huntsman, the sinews of whose gigantic frame were hardened in the hunting grounds of Vermont, and who had never feared the face of any man, paled and trembled before the grim visage of that huntsman whose name is Death.—His earthly doom was finally sealed! His earthly sands had run out! He obeyed the mandate to join the majority—*abiit ad plures*—and was gathered to his fathers in the prime of life—“ere his eye was dim or his natural force abated.” The gold was refined and the crucible was broken! The toil-worn body was lain in the “narrow house appointed for all living” that the soul might escape into life. “The mortal cerements have been burst and the winged child is born into the true life—the life of eternity.” “*After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well.*”

“How sleep the brave who sink to rest,
By all their Country's wishes blest!
When Spring, with dewy fingers cold,
Returns to deck their hallowed mould,
She there shall dress a sweeter sod,
Than fancy's feet have ever trod.

By fairy hands, their knell is rung,
By forms unseen their dirge is sung,
Their Honor comes, a pilgrim gray,
To bless the turf that wraps their clay,
And Freedom shall awhile repair,
To dwell a weeping hermit there.”

Gentlemen of the General Assembly :

The time already occupied ought to warn me that I am in danger of over-tasking your patience. A few general observations, naturally suggested by the subject-matter of this address, demand brief notice, and then my duty to those, who have honored me by their invitation and with their patient attention, is fulfilled.

The State of Vermont, unlike the Old Thirteen, had no previous colonial organization. No civil compact bound those inhabitants together who emigrated hither from the Colonies. But

the ties of sympathy, strengthened by the menace and force of tyranny, prompted them to unite together for the safety and promotion of the common welfare. For this reason, as has been very properly contended, "every record and document and pamphlet relative to our early history is invested with peculiar importance as showing the manner of development from a state of nature to a well-organized and efficient government."

A twelve month since, M. VATTEMARE, the distinguished founder of the system of International Literary and Scientific Exchanges, visited the capitol of Vermont. He there addressed the members of the General Assembly and proved, conclusively, that his project was eminently feasible, and would greatly tend to "promote the diffusion of knowledge and induce nations to be more firmly united in the bond of mutual good offices." At that time, the melancholy truth became widely known, that heretofore so little regard had been paid to the preservation of our most important documents, that not even the State Library contained a complete set of the published laws and journals of our Legislature!

Now, this must appear to every thoughtful Vermonter to be a most humiliating fact; for the life of a free government is mainly dependant upon the diffusion of intelligence. As, under our Constitution, all freemen are annually called upon to discharge responsible duties, they should be provided with such subject-matters of reflection as will prepare them for discharging those duties aright. There is no Appian path to mathematics and no royal road to political science. It is the imperative duty of *every* citizen of a free government to become familiar with the past and present history of his own country and his own State. This can not be done by intuition or miracle. He must be able to consult reliable authorities for this purpose, and must bear in constant remembrance that the ark of political safety is entrusted to the custody of every freeman. I reiterate no new truism when I say that he can best discharge his duty to his God and country who studies that he may obey the laws of both.

A very foolish error has gained currency among the people about the necessity and value of antiquarian research. An antiquary is commonly regarded as an obtrusive and tedious old fellow who visits you before breakfast and rummages over the

old papers and letters which are stored away among the cob-webs of your garret—annoys you during the day with foolish stories concerning this book or that hero about which you feel no interest, and talks until midnight about some curious investigation under the supposition that he has imparted to you some of his superfluous enthusiasm. If, prior to his departure on the morrow, he gives an extempore lecture on patriotism, and undertakes to touch the nerve that runs through the pocket, he will probably be regaled with a hint or two corresponding in spirit with the doings of that celebrated club stationed in London, known the world over as the “Pickwick Club.” That association recognized the principle of every member defraying his own travelling expenses, and could see no objection whatever to the members of the Society pursuing their inquiries, for any length of time, they pleased, upon the same terms! It also acquiesced in all proposals to pay the postage of letters and the carriage of parcels!

Now, whether the antiquary is provocative of foolish mirth or not, is *to him* of no importance. If he be a genuine antiquary, he will examine successive constitutions, laws and historical data, with a loftier purpose and to a more praise-worthy end than the winning of praise or the gratification of an idle curiosity. His mind will not be so much engrossed with the objects of the Present, but he will find sources of gratification in contemplating the history of the Past. And, thus attached to, and identified with, some comprehensive investigation, his time, his money, and his all, will be cheerfully devoted to a pursuit which, like Virtue, is apt to be its own reward. There is to him joy in seeking after wisdom: not that wisdom which enables him to become richer in gold or lands, to be powerful and influential among his fellow men, but joy in seeking wisdom for itself, wisdom to be wise.—Groping, perhaps, for awhile in the dark, he is, at last, able to trace to their origin, and through their various modifications, the institutions of the Past, and furnishes for himself and his country the safest means of comprehending the nature and tendency of existing systems.

A complete history of its own legislation, every State ought to possess. And that history should be placed within the reach of every freeman; for, as has been well remarked, “without the

possession of such a history and a practical regard to the lessons it inculcates, legislation will be, at best, but a succession of *experiments* : and, as a necessary consequence, every operation of government will be characterized with instability and want of wisdom.”*

But the objects of this Society are not confined to the collection and preservation of the legislative and historical materials of Vermont. Its purposes are far more comprehensive. Those gentlemen who formed an Association ten years ago, and were, by a legislative enactment recognized as a body corporate and politic—actuated by an enlarged and elevated idea of the pursuits to which such a society ought to be devoted,—wisely decided that one of its purposes should be the collection and preservation of materials for the *Natural History* of the State.

Man’s duties have been very properly classified, as first religious, then domestic, and then patriotic. I need not say that it is one of the patriotic duties of every Vermonter to advance, by all possible means, the grand projects which should absorb the public mind—whether, like the Geological Survey, they promote the development of the hidden wealth of the earth, or, like the present institution still in its infancy, tend to preserve from obscurity the character of our best men and rescue from oblivion the memorials or traditional memory of important events.

One of the means to secure this end, would be the establishment of a State Cabinet of Natural History, in which all the Indian relics extant could be preserved, and perfect specimens of mineralogy, botany, ornithology and zoology, could be arranged, which would, at once, suggest to the mind of every spectator, the partiality which the Creative Power has exhibited towards the valleys of Lake Champlain and Connecticut River.

Moreover, it is all-important that such manuscripts and papers, as illustrate the civil or natural history of Vermont, should be preserved in a library easy of access at all seasons of the year. It is true that we cannot indulge in the hope of gathering such a library as the Bibliotheque du Roi in Paris, the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg, or the Royal Library at Copenhagen. But

*Vermont State Papers, p. 15.

still, a creditable beginning could easily be made. A library could be formed here without great delay I doubt not, and with as much ease as BENJAMIN FRANKLIN established the first American Library in Philadelphia, and which might be of as much practical utility as the more costly and extensive collections of other States. The temples of the Gods, in the time of the Ptolemies, centuries ago, were crowded with choice and costly books: and, over the alcoves, was the inscription dear to every true scholar, "the medicine of the mind," or, as otherwise translated, "the nourishment of the soul." If the mind, as is contended, be the seat of all the happiness that belongs to humanity, then under the halo of this heavenly truth will the value of books more "fully and at large appear." "There is one art," says COLERIDGE, "of which every man should be master, the art of reflection. If you are not a thinking man, to what purpose are you a man at all?" But life being short, and work indispensable, few persons have time to be taught without libraries and cabinets. We must "read, mark and learn." Libraries and Cabinets of Natural History have very properly been denominated savings-banks in which one generation deposits its earnings for the use of the next: and that adds something to the store and thus the fund rapidly increases.

From the remarks already made, it will be obvious that the "Vermont Historical and Antiquarian Society" issues cards of invitation to a wide circle of guests. *All*, without distinction, are asked to come and take a part in advancing the cause of that Philosophy which teaches by fact: and to aid in rescuing from oblivion every thing which relates to the past or present drama of the world. I repeat, what I have already said, that the object of this Association is "Man and Nature—whatever is or has been performed by the one or produced by the other."

A few years ago a genuine Yankee, with scarcely money enough in his pocket to purchase drawing materials and lay in a store of provisions, pushed his boat into the waters of the Mississippi—he steers slowly down the stream—gazes upon the banks on either side and sketches the "changing scenery, the virgin forest, the beetling cliffs, the spreading prairie, the Indian wigwam, the rising city, the deserted cabin, the wonders of art and nature

along its banks, till, at last, he floats out with the stream into the Gulf that receives him as Eternity swallows time."* For three years the patient *Banvard* sails up and down the Father of Rivers, and labors on his work of love. And when the work was done, and the picture completed, myriads of admiring countrymen flocked to behold it. It is not strange that European curiosity should be excited to get a glimpse of a sketch of three thousand miles condensed into three !!

I have alluded to this artistic triumph over difficulties because, to my mind, it seems to be a striking emblem of Civil and Natural History.

In the mysterious economy of Providence, it often happens that the horn of plenty drops substantial "aid and comfort" in the laps of those who scorn the rugged heights of wisdom and love the paths of ignoble ease. It is one of the note-worthy characteristics of an earnest lover of science to seek and to attain valuable knowledge under a pressure of seemingly insurmountable difficulties. And how much soever the fact may have been regretted since Solomon announced that "much study was a weariness of the flesh," and that "much knowledge increaseth sorrow," it is a melancholy truth that all persons, having the inclination and intellectual power, have not the requisite pecuniary means to float up and down the stream of the past, and to survey and map down the wonders of art and nature which abound in its midst or cluster along its banks.

But the antiquary *has* made the voyage, and on his own pages, as on a canvass, he has jotted down past events and completed his chart of the Stream of Time! That is *Civil History!*

Neither have all persons the means of collecting and arranging the numberless specimens of wealth with which the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms abound. But the natural historian takes the wings of the morning and flies to the uttermost parts of the sea and returns laden with the choicest products of every soil and zone. These he arranges so that the eye of the thoughtful enquirer can behold, at a glance, of what wonderful materials the planet on which we live, move and have our being, is composed. This may be called *Natural History.*

*Mr. PRIME'S Address before the Library Association of Newark, N. J.

No matter what scientific bias controls the student, he is thus enabled to be the profitable spectator of a panoramic view of six thousand years ! We can sit down in the library and cabinet thus formed, and the moving canvass shall pass steadily and slowly in review before us. We shall thus familiarize ourselves with the past—become acquainted with the statesmen and heroes of antiquity and modern times—learn how this earth was constructed—keep our minds alive in the contemplation of the constantly increasing beauties and wonders of Art and Nature.

And thus—

“ *Whate’er* we see,
Whate’er we feel, shall tend to feed and nurse,
By agency direct or indirect,
Our faculties ; shall fix in calmer seats
Of moral strength and raise to loftier heights
Of divine love, our intellectual soul.”

APPENDIX.

RIPTON, Vt., October 3, 1848.

GEORGE F. HOUGHTON, Esq., St. Albans, Vt.

SIR: * * * * Some years since, I noticed that great injustice had been done to the character of SETH WARNER by certain unintentional errors in existing history; and, when in Boston in the year 1845, I called Dr. JARED SPARKS' attention to a passage in his Memoir of ETHAN ALLEN calculated to lessen the consequence of Col. WARNER with posterity. After some conversation in relation to WARNER, he requested me to write a Memoir of Col. WARNER for his "American Biography." I told Dr. SPARKS that I would make an effort to collect materials for such a work, and, if I should become unable to write, I would furnish him with the materials.

After my return from Boston, I made efforts to collect the necessary materials, but was so unsuccessful that I abandoned the idea of writing the Memoir. But in the winter of 1846-7 I fortunately found, among Mr. HENRY STEVENS' papers, such materials that I commenced writing the Memoir, and, having prepared it for the press, expected it would be published in the next volume of the American Biography, but, by the enclosed letter from Dr. SPARKS, I found that work was discontinued.

Being thus disappointed, I could not think of any mode in which the work could be published. I could not think of publishing it in a pamphlet, and it would make a volume too small to be thought of. At length, I concluded to write something to be published with it, and commenced writing under the title "The Life and Times of THOMAS CHITTENDEN, including the History of the Constitutions of Vermont." But I was soon admonished by the infirmities of age that I should not be able to collect the necessary materials and complete the work. At the same time, it fortunately occurred to me that Dr. SPARKS might permit his "Memoir of ETHAN ALLEN" to be published with the Memoir of SETH WARNER, and in June last, I wrote to Dr. SPARKS on the subject, and he generously complied with my wishes. ALLEN and WARNER are named together, as the principal leaders of the Green Mountain Boys, by the present generation, and I think they will be gratified when they find the lives of the two distinguished patriots in the same volume.

Very Respectfully,

Your obt' serv't

DANIEL CHIPMAN.

NOTE.—For the more perfect elucidation of several subjects to which allusion has been made in the foregoing address, it has been thought advisable to re-publish, in an appendix, a few papers which cannot now be found in print and for which I am chiefly indebted to the courtesy of HENRY STEVENS, Esq., of Barnet, the indefatigable President of the "Vermont Historical and Antiquarian Society."

Report of a Committee of Council about lands on the West side of Connecticut River.

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

To His Excellency JOHN WENTWORTH, Esq., Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of New Hampshire, in New England, and Vice Admiral of the same.

IN COUNCIL AUGUST 16TH, 1771.

May it please Your Excellency—

In pursuance of a vote of Council of the 20th December, 1768, appointing a Committee to draft a just representation of the grievances of more than a thousand grantees of land granted by the late Governor of this Province, with the advice of His Majesty's Council, on the West side of Connecticut river, in consequence of a petition of JOHN WENDALL, Esq., their agent, and that the Committee exhibit a report to your Excellency in Council, we beg leave, upon faithful and mature examination, to report as follows, viz:—

First—That BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq., late Governor of this Province, by his commission, was authorized, and by instructions required, to grant (with advice of Council) the unappropriated Crown lands in said Province, under certain reservations and services to His Majesty's subjects.

Secondly—That between the years 1749 and 1764, the petitioners, with many others, solicited and obtained grants of sundry tracts of lands Westward of Connecticut River to a line twenty miles East of Hudson's River of the aforesaid Governor, BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq., with advice of Council, and under the Great Seal of this Province.

That, by His Majesty's order in Council of 20th July, 1764, the jurisdiction of the district Westward of Connecticut River, the property of the soil ungranted, equally vested in the Crown under either provincial jurisdiction as we humbly presume, was rescinded from the Province of New Hampshire and annexed to the Province of New York, unheard, unexpected, and without consciety of error or forfeiture, although extremely detrimental to the Province, and, unless relieved by His Majesty's most gracious clemency, will be entirely ruinous to the petitioners and others in like circumstances, who, with their numerous innocent, loyal and industrious families, must be reduced from hard-earned competence and quiet diligence, to all the horrors, disorders and desperations of unmerited extremest indigence; for the petitioners alledge and (for them) too plainly prove that their grants under New Hampshire being perfected, they rested satisfied of their title to the premises as it was never made a doubt by any person in New England, or even suspected but that the jurisdiction of New Hampshire extended to a line twenty miles East of Hudson's river. They, therefore, proceeded to remove themselves, their families, and all their property upon the premises, where for many years they peaceably pursued their laborious cultivations, complying with the terms of their patents and populating an immense wilderness with useful subjects. These lands, being then settled and improved, excited the cupidity of their neighbors, and in the year 1763, or early in 1764, the desire to acquire, or rather to seize the New Hampshire well-cleared plantations, first broke forth in the proclamation of Lieutenant Governor COLDEN, requiring a return of all those names, that did or should hold possession of any lands Westward of Connecticut River under the grant of New Hampshire, that they might be proceeded against according to law. Hereupon, surveyors were sent from New York, who, avowing the authority of that government, surveyed the premises, including the houses, barns, and every other valuable improvement of the petitioners, to grant them to other people, which was actually done by Mr. COLDEN soon after the proclamation aforesaid was published.

The petitioners waited on Mr. COLDEN, remonstrating to him the injury they suffered by the proceedings and the unprecedented barbarity of such divestment.

But, they say, a day was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor to hear their claims in Council, and they were promised that grants should be suspended until that day. However, they experienced that grants were made previous thereto and all relief totally refused.

Upon inquiry, it appeared that forty grants had actually passed of the premises which were known, and, probably, many more, containing from two to twenty-seven thousand acres of the most fertile and best cultivated lands, possessed by the claimers under New Hampshire, and these grants made to single persons of Mr. COLDEN's own family connections or to officers, the largest tract not exceeding five or six grantees, under no services or conditions of settlement or cultivation except of quit rent, not even a reservation of pine timber for masts with which the country is well clothed. It is now reported that some of these grants have been altered, bearing a reservation of mast timber, and requiring some cultivation or settlement. Immediately the grantees under New York proceeded to demand a relinquishment of the claims under New Hampshire, although settled, possessed, cultivated and built upon for ten to fourteen years. Letters were

sent wherein these new patentees menaced violence to some, actions of ejectment to others, proposing leases for ten to fourteen years, at the rate of sixty bushels of wheat per annum for every hundred acres of land—others demanding three pounds York currency, equal to thirty-four shillings sterling per acre, to release the possessors. Such exorbitances, cruelties and injustice, amounted to a total prohibition.

Whereupon, some were actually driven off from their possessions, others sued in action of ejectment and harassed through different Courts at a great distance, until the cost had swelled above their personal estates, and then their persons thrown into jail, there to starve and rot until the remainder was satisfied, while their more miserable families, ousted from their possessions, had the choice to starve in the wilderness or rot and become prey to that law which had not protected them from the oppression of powerful avarice. Some of these people were taken by the Sheriff, as trespassers, though residing upon and holding their lands granted by royal authority, under the seal of New Hampshire—their persons hurried to Albany jail and all bail refused.

And when the trial came, in which they were to be ousted and, perhaps, fined for presuming a refusal to yield up their whole and honestly acquired estates to those who had unworthily obtained new grants of them under New York, the patent under New Hampshire, upon which that title was professedly grounded, was not permitted to be given to the Jury in evidence. Upon which strange events, every case went against them. Indeed, it is a sure method, and by the like, there is not the least doubt but every other patent or grant may have the same fate. It was an admirable brevity, and extremely facilitates an entire eradication of all property, unless sanctified by a grant under New York, at the enormous expense of £330 sterling for a tract of six miles square—which sum was actually paid by those few whose ability, co-operating with the distress of impending ruin, enabled and compelled them thus unreasonably to purchase peace and quiet possession of their own property; but had the patent or grant under New Hampshire been admitted to be given in evidence to the Jury, yet the petitioners were reduced to the most extraordinary disadvantages, torn away from their friends and families from sixty to eighty miles, confined in a loathsome jail, bail refused upon a civil process, their little monies wasted, without a friend to protect or lawyer to advise and direct them. Thus to have a trial at law for all the property they had on earth, before a Court and by a Jury, in effect, interested in their defeat, opposed by the most ingenious and weighty lawyers who had almost universally, directly or under cover of other names, been shrewdly made grantees under New York & located upon these desirable farms under such untoward circumstances, the event required no divination to foresee, and accordingly your petitioners suffered, and, being poor people and strangers, sunk under the frowns of Government, and interest, they could neither sustain the cost of an appeal, nor procure bondsmen to respond the event.

Thus insurmountably oppressed, their adversaries cautiously avoided laying their actions at such a sum as justifies an appeal to His Majesty in Council, and consequently foreclosed that only sure and just relief. Having thus stated the facts as they have been strongly proved to us, it now remains that some observations be offered, which we humbly presume will recommend the petitioners to an establishment in their property, and this Province to His Majesty's most gracious condescension and favor in restoring to them a district, so essential to their welfare, contiguous to, and otherwise convenient and desirable for the settlement prosperity, and orderly government of that people, now groaning under and heavily complaining of every outrage, dissension, and wretched confusion, in a degree not known even in the hour of conquest.

The Government of New York, evidently proceeding upon some title to these lands previous to His Majesty's order in Council 20th July, 1764, which expressly says "considering a representation of Lords Commissioners for trade and plantations relative to the disputes that have some years since subsisted between the Province of New York and New Hampshire, concerning the boundary line between the two Provinces, His Majesty, taking the same into consideration, was pleased, with the advice of his Privy Council, to approve of what is therein proposed, and doth accordingly hereby order, and declare the Western banks of Connecticut river as far North as the 45th degree of North latitude, to be the boundary line between the said Provinces."

It may be answered, the Province of New Hampshire, by royal authority, was to run from a point in Merrimack river due West until it met some other govern-

ment. The Province of Massachusetts and Connecticut claimed and possessed to a line of 20 miles distance East from Hudson's river, and as the Eastern boundaries of New York were not determined by royal authority, by public claim, or by acts of jurisdiction, or even by common popular supposition, further Eastward than the said 20 miles line, it was surely the duty of this Province to extend its jurisdiction thereto, in obedience to His Majesty's commission. We are further supported herein by His late Majesty's instructions to BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq., Governor of this Province, upon a report of the Lords of the Council, 28th August, 1744, requiring him to move the Assembly to provide for and support the garrison called Fort Dummer, situated on the West side of Connecticut river, or in default, the district adjoining should be granted to the Massachusetts Bay. They could with reason be required to maintain a Fort no longer within their jurisdiction; accordingly it was proposed to the Assembly, who disapproving the situation, refused and were dissolved. The next Assembly concerted and made proper grants for its support, which monies, with other instances of obedience to the royal requisitions, this Province is now paying interest for, and has a tax of three years yet unexpired to reimburse. This, of itself, cannot fail to ascertain the jurisdiction to New Hampshire Province to the royal decree in 1764. In a report of His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General, 14th August, 1752, it is said that sixty thousand acres of land on the Western side of Connecticut river, called equivalent land, by the determination of the boundary line in 1733, is become a part of New Hampshire, and the district have reported it part of the land the petitioners complain of being ousted from.

These we presume are the highest and fully sufficient authority that the case can require, or admit, in favor of New Hampshire, and perfectly conclusive in support of the petitioners' claims of property, but we find it most particularly justified by the treaty between the commissaries of Massachusetts Bay and New York, held at New Haven in the year 1767 in consequence of His Majesty's representation officially signified by the Right Honorable the Earl of Shelburn. In that treaty, the Commissaries for New York proposed a line, after many intermediate proposals, about thirty-seven miles West of Connecticut River, to be the boundary line between those two Provinces; wherefore we conclude that, in their own opinion, New Hampshire did extend to the same line, before the decree of 1764 had altered it, for it is plain beyond a doubt, that every reason, in behalf of the Massachusetts Bay having this line, is much stronger in favor of New Hampshire, and consequently that the grants to the petitioners, by the Governor and under the Seal of New Hampshire, are valid and legally convey a legal title to the premises which no alteration of jurisdiction can abrogate or nullify. We have purposely neglected considering the stale pretence of claim under the Duke of York's patent—that title being universally supposed to be merged in the Crown. If this is waved, yet it is surely obsolete and vacant from non use—an absurdity itself. If not, and that patent is still a private and valid existence it equally includes more than half the patent to the Council of Plymouth, and can operate to the removal of at least half a million of British subjects, after near a century of quiet possession.

An idea, so repugnant to the civil law (the common law knows nothing of settling new countries) to good policy, to common justice, and even to common sense itself, that we forbear to enlarge our report with the abundant refutations that title unalienably suffocates itself with, as this Province has not been informed of the cause that occasioned the defalcation of so large and valuable a district, now never more cited to defend themselves, nor were in the least appraised thereof until the arrival of his Majesty's orders in Council, and to this day are entirely at a loss therein, it is impossible to enter fully into our justification or properly to represent thereon to your Excellency in Council, but as some representations alone would have occasioned a measure so grievous to a loyal Province, and so uncommonly replete with eventual injury and distress to a numerous body of His Majesty's subjects we would hereby conlute such things as have occurred during our inquiry into the petition.

It has been suggested that Lieut. Gov. COLDEN had represented the inconvenience of this district appertaining to New Hampshire, and that for distance and situation it could never be well governed but in New York, of which the inhabitants were very desirous. It is with great reluctance we find it our duty to contradict such assertions. The district in question is nearer Portsmouth than New York, from sixty to three hundred and twenty miles, and it is evident that the nearer an Estate is to the Capital of its Government, the more convenient, especially in Amer-

ica where, upon most occasions of law, course must be had to the Capital where all appeals are heard, and which, in the present extent of New York, is almost impossible, at least it must be ruinous for from many parts of the districts taken off from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, in which Provinces there is no law to conduct a prisoner through them under a precept issued in any other, consequently these poor people are deprived of this Court and the Court of Chancery in said Province, unless they travel, without the said limits of New England, a journey of at least five hundred miles, which in time and expense would swallow almost any American farmer's Estates, and, under law and justice, the greatest violence and mischief to him, and here it is worthy of observation, the bounds proposed, viz: the Western banks of Connecticut river, which we are told were represented to have a North and South course into the Country, whereas it appears by a survey of SAMUEL HOLLAND, Surveyor General of the Northern district of America, taken officially and without the intervention of the parties, though a fact well known for twenty years past, that the course of said river is for many miles East and West, and in many places to the South of East, in so much that for more than five eighths of the river, there is no West nor East banks and, therefore, no bounds that can be known. Besides this, in the Spring and upon freshets, the river dilates more than a mile in many places, upon which, as being the most fertile, there are the best farms and most inhabitants, and by this means are in New Hampshire half the year, and the other half in New York. As to the inhabitants preferring to be in New York, their continual petitions, both here and in the public offices at home, their Agents in England appointed to solicit their restoration to New Hampshire and the manifold grievances they daily suffer and complain of in that Province, testify to the contrary beyond a volume of representations, nor can we imagine with what spirit it could be offered, or how any person could presume to utter such gross and palpable fictions, which we humbly conceive are detrimental to His Majesty's service, by causing a mutilation of a small Province, at best but scarcely able to support the government, although from the beginning to this day, both in war and peace, they have approved themselves faithful and loyal subjects to the King, and who, by their blood and treasure, defended this very territory from the enemy, annexing it to the Province of New York, already of immense extent and opulence, who, neither in the last war dare defend it from the savages, nor in the present peace give the strongest testimonies of veneration and obedience to the land, except the receding from an agreement to distress the British commerce where it was no longer tenable can be called an adequate renovation, and an all-meritorious obliteration of their former conduct.

It is also said that Mr. COLDEN represented that the grants under New Hampshire were clandestinely obtained by enormous fees, and that a man, in no better appearance than a common pedler, travelled through New York and New Jersey, offering for sale many townships. The first part of this calumny, Mr. COLDEN knows, is false. It is contrived to injure the Governor and Council of New Hampshire. The grants were made in Council, and recorded in the Secretary's office, whereto all persons have uninterrupted and open access, with a full right to demand copies of record, which was never yet denied to any one.

It is, therefore, plain that these grants were not made in the least clandestinely, neither could they be in the very nature of the thing. Therefore, this assertion is highly unjust, untrue and injurious to His Majesty's Council of New Hampshire. As to the enormous fees insinuated, we can only say they are unknown to, and unparticipated by, the Council, and that we believe it might be proved that Mr. WENTWORTH did not receive more than £30 sterling for passing a patent of those very townships, which we know, after the decree of 1764, the same grantees were for each township compelled to pay, at New York, three hundred and thirty pounds sterling, to obtain, notwithstanding they had performed all the conditions in the patent under New Hampshire. We are surprised at the nugationness of his asserting that a man of no better appearance than a pedler offered to sell many townships. Be it so. We justly may suspect that such a person had no right to them, or may it not be reasonably apprehended that some such tool was employed merely to defame and degrade the government of New Hampshire?

Seeing that even Mr. COLDEN presumed to lay such groundless petitions before His Majesty's Ministers of State, though from his present rank and appearance so highly remote from the pedler, we heartily wish we were not thus called upon to be jealous of either, but had these grants been obtained clandestinely, and at enormous expense, how could a poor pedler-like man have acquired them? The absurdity and malice of the anecdote are equal and evident.

We are also casually informed that it was by him represented that officers would not locate in New Hampshire. If it was true, it might have been our misfortune, but by no means a matter of accusation or criminality. But the fact is otherwise; many officers did and do daily locate in New Hampshire, and it might be more reasonably complained of on our side that these did not claim in New York. Yet this is not all the insidious, cruel secret. It was suggested to many officers, and other people of respectable rank, who had obtained the royal mandamus for grants of land, that they might locate on cultivated tracts of the New Hampshire settlers, which were rendered valuable by their labors. By this means, many, not knowing the injustice of the case, did locate upon the premises, which, undoubtedly, answered the purposes of those who wished to have the poor settlers ousted under the misused names and countenance of the Royal Proclamation. These being all the matter of complaint against New Hampshire preferred by Mr. GOLDEN that have been suggested to us, and the Province having had no official or other citation, nor the least notice of these or any other complaints against their jurisdiction on the premises, before the arrival of His Majesty's orders in Council of 1764, whereby they were deprived of this district, we beg leave further to represent that the unexpected decree obtained *ex parte*, and without a hearing of New Hampshire, as was formerly granted in a similar dispute with Massachusetts Bay, and is now in agitation between New York and New Jersey, and between New York and Massachusetts Bay, though immediately obeyed with the utmost minute punctuality.— Yet it conveyed the greatest surprise and grief through the Province, not only the loss they sustained of a country maintained and defended by their men and money as part of the Province by express command of his late Majesty, but more especially that it appeared as a censure inflicted for misconduct they know not to have incurred, and without an opportunity to vindicate themselves, whereby many innocent subjects, the petitioners are involved in the most distressful circumstances, far more to be regretted and marked with infinitely greater calamity than the Canadians, whom they assisted to conquer, were subjected to, by the change of government that ensued, under which they were mercifully quieted in their possessions, while the petitioners complain and lament that they are disseized and ejected solely under the pretence of an alteration in the boundary line of the two Provinces.

But as the petitioners were now excluded from this Province; the Council entertained the greatest reluctance to hear their petition, nor were prevailed upon until through repeated representations that the grievances complained of were in some degree innocently occasioned by their official advice, and that the event extremely affected the honor and prosperity of the Province which in duty to their Majesty and faithfulness to their fellow subjects they are bound to pursue.

From the same motives, we have delayed returning our report daily hoping that the petitioners would be relieved, and that their petitions would be laid before His Majesty, from whose paternal care of his remotest subjects the most solid relief will undoubtedly result.

We, therefore, beg leave to report as before expressed, and that our humble address be presented to His Majesty representing the injury sustained by his loyal and obedient Province of New Hampshire by the alteration of the boundary line of said Province in favor of the Province of New York, also of the sufferings resulting to many thousands of His Majesty's good subjects, thereby most humbly praying that His Majesty will be graciously pleased to restore and re-annex the premises to this Province, which event, we humbly conceive, will give peace and relief to the petitioners, and highly promote population and improvement of that district, facilitate and augment the revenue of quit rent, and preserve the pine timber fit for masts, accommodate the inhabitants in the mode, situation and distance of their provincial government and be, in every other view and tendency, a blessing to that country and plant an everlasting gratitude for such an instance of the Royal benignity of His Majesty's most happy government.

All which is humbly submitted to your Excellency in Council, by

DANIEL PIERCE,
 GEORGE JAFFREY, } *Committee.*
 DANIEL ROGERS, }

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

IN COUNCIL 16TH AUGUST, 1771.

The foregoing report having been read, voted and resolved that the same be accepted and presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying His Excellency will be pleased to transmit the same to be laid before His Majesty, humbly imploring the Royal condescension to re-annex the district on the West side of Connecticut river taken from this Province and added to the Province of New York, by His Majesty's order in Council, in the year 1764, and that His Excellency will be pleased to recommend the same, being for His Majesty's service and for the just benefit of this Province by such further explanations and observations thereon as to His Excellency shall seem proper and just.

THEODORE ATKINSON, *Sec'y.*

Copy of a Letter from the Widow of Col. Seth Warner to Dr. William Samuel Johnson.

WOODBURY, October 8th, 1786.

Honored Sir :—Though I am unacquainted with your person, yet being acquainted with your character, I am emboldened to request your honor to take the care of a memorial herewith sent, begging the favor of you to take the charge thereof, and lay the same before the honorable Congress. Though I am poor and needy, the thing did not originate in my breast; but the officers, and those acquainted with Col. WARNER's conduct in the last war, urged me to make the trial, and even offered to wait on me to Congress for that purpose. But my poverty prevents me from making such a journey, together with the uncertainty of obtaining a hearing. I seek not for great things, but should be glad to have a sufficiency to educate my fatherless children, so that they may not be contemptible among the human race.

I am, Honored Sir,

an unknown, disconsolate widow,

ESTHER WARNER.

To WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON, Esq.

Mrs. Esther Warner's Petition to Congress.

To the Honorable the President and Members of the Congress of the United States of America, now assembled at the City and State of New York:

The petition of ESTHER WARNER, widow and relict of Colonel SEPH WARNER, formerly of Bennington, in the State of Vermont, more lately of Woodbury, in the State of Connecticut, humbly sheweth: That Colonel WARNER, early in the contest of America with Great Britain, for the maintaining of their natural rights, in opposition to British oppression and tyranny, took an active part previous to the Honorable Congress' appointing him to the command of a regiment; and so distinguished himself by his zeal and heroic actions as that the Honorable Congress was pleased to honor him with the command of a regiment—whose conduct is particularly described in a recommendation by the Governor and principal inhabitants of the State of Vermont and some in Connecticut, to the President of Congress, dated July 7th, A. D. 1786, herewith transmitted to your honors, some of which persons are officers in the regiment under his command, and are personally knowing to the facts therein related. The circumstances of your disconsolate petitioner as to her interest and circumstances in life will appear by certificate of DANIEL SHERMAN, Judge of Probate, herewith transmitted, dated Oct. 3d, A. D. 1786, by which your honors will see that your unhappy petitioner hath nothing to support herself and three children, only her own industry—having two sons and a daughter, two of which are unable to earn anything by their labor. Your petitioner would further represent to your honors that the Colonel was so taken up in the defence of the Country in the late war, that he wholly neglected his own interest, by means of which he lost much of his estate, as it lay chiefly in lands in the State of Vermont, for want of taking seasonable care thereof, and although your petitioner had a hard task in looking after the Colonel in his last sickness, as the Co-

lonel lay long confined, unable to help himself, and your petitioner had the unhappiness to see her dear companion, as it were, die by inches, (as a mortification began in his feet and by a slow progress proceeded up to his body, which continued for months before it put an end to his valuable life.) Notwithstanding your petitioner had the chief care of looking after her dear companion, it yielded her some consolation that she had the opportunity of looking after the Colonel in his last sickness. Had it been the Colonel's fate to have fallen in battle, as many did that were engaged with him, your petitioner is informed that she should be entitled to receive some gratuity from your honors.

Your petitioner, therefore, can but hope inasmuch as the death of her dear husband was in consequence of the wounds and hardships he received in his country's service in the late war, your honors will be graciously pleased to take her distressed circumstances into your wise consideration and grant her such a bounty as that she may be able to support herself and children, and give them such education as that they might not be contemptible among the human race. The which your petitioner is the more embolden to ask your honors, as she hath been informed your honors have, in some instances, been liberal to the posterity of those who have distinguished themselves in their country's service in the late war—for which, as in duty bound, your unhappy petitioner shall ever pray.

ESTHER WARNER.

Dated at Woodbury the eighth day of October, A. D. 1786.

[The following report of a Committee appointed by the General Assembly of the State of New York "to prepare a draft of a state of the just rights of this Colony (New York,) with respect to encroachments made on its Eastern boundary," is republished from the Journal of the General Assembly of New York, 1773, pp. 90—108, and presents the views entertained at that date by the authorities of the Colony of New York. The facts and arguments are of great historical interest and the entire draught will abundantly compensate for the time spent in its perusal. It may be regarded as a *Per Contra* to the report made in New Hampshire and also comprised in this Appendix.]

A STATE of the Right of the Colony of New York, with respect to its Eastern boundary on Connecticut River, so far as concerns the late encroachments under the government of New Hampshire.

In considering the objections which have been raised by the government of New Hampshire against the Eastern extent of this Colony, to the banks of Connecticut river, the pre-occupancy of that river by the Dutch will be of moment. But whether Capt. Hudson, who was the discoverer, acquired any right;—whether he transferred his pretensions to the States General;—whether his conveyance was valid;—or, finally, whether the Crown of England was not already interested with the country from the discoveries which had been made for the English by Sebastian Cabot, in the reign of King Henry the VIIth? are questions foreign to our purpose; since it is not the *right*, but the *priority of possession* of the Dutch, which is at present material, and to be supported.

In the year 1609, Hudson first discovered the coast between Martha's Vineyard and the first Virginia settlement; and it then began to be minutely explored, and the bays, rivers and islands ascertained and distinguished.

Hudson's river was again visited in 1610, and in the following years by Dutch ships, and their Colony advanced with such rapidity, that in 1612 they had a town and Fort on the island of Manhattan's, now New York; and in 1615, another town and Fort at Aurania, now Albany, 160 miles up Hudson's river; previous to which the States General, in 1614, granted a patent to some of their subjects with the privilege of an exclusive trade in this country, which they denominated New Netherland.

In 1623, they made a grant of the soil to the West India company; who in the same year erected Fort Nassau, on the East side of Delaware Bay, and Fort Good Hope on Connecticut river; and upwards of 35 miles from its mouth. Near to this ancient fortress, the remains of which are still to be seen, the town of Hartford hath since been built under Connecticut.

Fort Casimer, now called New-Castle, on the Delaware, they built in 1651: About four years afterwards they removed the Swedes, who were then settled in that part of the country, and thus became possessed of the West side of Delaware Bay, now called the three lower counties.

There is not the least doubt but that the Dutch actually enjoyed the exclusive possession, trade and advantage of the whole Connecticut river, long before it had been approached by any English subject; and had purchased almost all the lands on both sides of it from the natives.

It is equally clear that they considered and claimed all the country to the Westward of Connecticut river, and as far Northward as the river St. Lawrence, as part of their Colony of New Netherland; and we find it so laid down in all the ancient maps.*

When the first war between England and Holland became inevitable, King Charles the Second, by letters patent, dated the 12th day of March, 1663—4, granted to his brother, the Duke of York, the tracts of country which comprehended New York, to render this gift effectual, before the war was proclaimed, a fleet and land force were sent out to remove the Dutch, and put the Duke in possession.

The Dutch Governor Stuyvesant, in his letter dated the 2d day of September, 1664, N. S. in answer to a letter from Governor Nicholls, in August preceding, demanding a surrender of the Forts and the countries possessed by the Dutch, under his command, denied the title of the King of Great Britain to this part of America; insisted on the rights of the States General as founded, not only on the first discovery, but on purchases from the native proprietors, and a long, peaceful and uninterrupted possession; and protested against every act of hostility as an infraction of the alliance and treaty of peace then subsisting between His Britannic Majesty and the States General.

But however clear his opinion of the right of the Dutch, in no condition to defend it, he found himself obliged to submit to a superior power; accordingly, on the 27th day of August, 1664, he surrendered all the country, which the Dutch then possessed, to King Charles the Second.

A capitulation was previously agreed upon and granted for the security of the inhabitants: By the third article it is declared, *That all the people shall continue free denizens, and shall enjoy their lands, houses and goods, wheresoever they are within this country, and dispose of them as they please.*

Afterwards the States General, by the treaty of Breda, in 1667, made a cession of this country to the Crown of England.

During the succeeding war between the two nations, the Dutch, in 1673, re-conquered a part of it; but by the definitive treaty of London, in 1674, they again surrendered, and finally yielded all their claim to the Crown of England.

To remove any doubt of the validity of the Duke's title, either from the want of seizin in the Crown when it originated, or on account of the intermediate conquest by the Dutch, it was confirmed to his Royal Highness by further letters patent, dated the 29th day of June, 1674.

The descriptive part in both grants is the same, and comprehends, among other lands, "All that island or islands commonly called Matawacks, or Long Island, together with Hudson's river; and all the land from the West side of the Connecticut river to the East side of Delaware Bay."

Connecticut river extends into the country, upon a Northerly direction, beyond the 45th degree of North latitude, where we find its head. Hudson's river, in its general course, is nearly parallel to Connecticut river, and takes its rise a little to the Southward of that latitude.

The Duke continued proprietor and chief governor of this province, till he ascended the throne, when his right was merged in the royal authority. On his

*See Ogilvy's America, published in 1671, and his map at page 168, Section *Nieu Nederlandt*, where the country to the Southward of the River St. Lawrence, is called *Nova Belgica*, five *Nieu Nederlandt*, and the river itself is called *Bio St. Lawrence*, alias *De Groote Rivier van Nieu Nederlandt*.

See also Blave's America, published in Amsterdam, in 1663, vol. xi, and his map inscribed *Nova Belgica et Anglia Nova*.

See also Johannis Van Kuleu's Atlas.

abdication, it passed to King William, his successor, as lord proprietor, and royal sovereign.

In the Duke of York's commissions to his several lieutenant governors, Major Edmond Andross, on the first day of July, 1764, and Col. Thomas Dongan, on the 30th day of September, 1682, among other descriptions of the boundary of this province, are expressly comprehended all the land from the West side of Connecticut river, to the East side of Delaware Bay.

King William and Queen Mary, by their commission dated the 4th day of January, in the first year of their reign, appointed Henry Slaughter to be governor of the province of New York, *and the territories depending thereon*; the boundaries whereof to the Connecticut river on the East, by the above and many other grants, commissions and public acts, were notorious.

In all subsequent acts and commissions, this Colony is described by the same general words, *the province of New York and the territories depending thereon*; and its boundaries have never been altered by the government here or at home.

Indeed, the Colony itself has been diminished by the Duke of York's transfer of that part of it which is now called New-Jersey to Lord Berkley, and Sir Philip Carteret.—By our agreement with Connecticut, in 1683, under mutual acts of legislature, subject to the royal approbation,—and by his Majesty's proclamation of the seventh day of October, 1763, establishing the limits of Quebec.

The latter is reserved for the state of the rights of this Colony respecting the grants formerly made by the French government of Canada, of lands on Lake Champlain, and at and to the Southward of Crown Point. Nor need any thing here be said of the grant of New Jersey, it being of no moment in the present controversy.

But it will be of use to explain the settlement with Connecticut, because it has been misconstrued to our prejudice, both by Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire.

And here it is necessary to premise, that the New England Colonies were founded on the grant of King James the first, to the council of Plymouth, dated the third day of November, in the 18th year of his reign, of the property and jurisdiction of the lands in America, (called New England) from forty to forty-eight degrees of North latitude.

That it was the intention of the Crown that this right should not interfere with the claims and possessions of the Dutch in this country, which were undoubtedly well known in England, is evident from a recital to the following purpose, "Now forasmuch as the King has been certainly given to understand by divers good subjects that have for these many years frequented the coasts and territories between the degrees of forty and forty-eight, that there are no other subjects of any Christian King or State, or by any authority from their sovereign lord or princes, actually in possession of any the said lands or precincts." And also from a proviso in these words, "*Provided always*, That the said lands, islands, or any of the premises by the said letters patent intended or meant to be granted, were not then actually possessed or inhabited by any other Christian power or State."

Most of the Dutch Colony of New Netherland was, however, included within the bounds of this grant; it was therefore void for the false suggestion, and if it had been valid, the possessions of the Dutch were at least excepted and excluded by the saving clause.

The council of Plymouth by their deed dated the 19th day of March, in the 3d year of the reign of King Charles the first, granted to Sir Henry Roswell and others all lands from three miles Northward of any and every part of Merrimack river, to three miles Southward from any and every part of Charles river and of Massachusetts Bay, (East and West from sea to sea) with all islands on the East and Western coasts.

Within this description also, part of the New-Netherlands is comprehended.

Sir Henry and his associates, having formed the design of planting a Colony, thus became invested with the right of soil; but they still wanted the powers of jurisdiction or government, which the Council of Plymouth never pretended to transfer.

To remedy this inconveniency a royal charter was obtained, dated the 4th day of March, 1628—9, incorporating them by the name of the Governor and

company of the Massachusetts Bay, with ample jurisdiction and powers of government.

But these grants are liable to both the above objections, they are null as founded upon a void patent, or at the best they cannot convey what was expressly excepted out of Plymouth patent by the proviso.

If it should be pretended that the charter, from the liberal terms of the granting clause, invested a new right in aid of what was conveyed by the deed from the council of Plymouth, it must be a satisfactory answer that it also includes an express proviso, that if the lands thereby intended to be granted, were, at the time of the patent to the council of Plymouth possessed or inhabited by any Christian prince or State, the grant, as to such part, should be utterly void.

We need not enlarge on these objections. The Massachusetts charter was vacated, and the title of that Colony now solely depends on their new charter of 1691 as we shall have occasion more fully to observe in the sequel. Thus much is necessary in this place to enable us to explain

THE CLAIM OF CONNECTICUT.

This Colony was formed by a coalition of two distinct societies; that of Hartford, consisting, according to Doctor Douglass, of some discontented people who removed from the Massachusetts Bay about the year 1636; and that of New-Haven, planted the year after by emigrants from England, under the direction of Mr. Eaton.

These little Colonies were planted without the least right or authority from the Crown, nor had any legal government. Under a voluntary association they assumed the exercised jurisdiction after the model of the Massachusetts Bay. For some time the Dutch seem to have considered the people of Hartford as their tenants, and probably it was with their approbation and under their right that they first settled.

We find from the Dutch records, that the following conditions were proposed to them in the year 1642.

***“Conditiones a D. Directore Gen. Senatuyis Novi Belgii, Dominis Weytingh atque Hill, Delagatis a nobili senatu Hartfordiensi, oblatae.**

Progro agro nostro Hartfordiensi annuo persolvent Præpotentiss. D. D. ordinibus Fœd Provinciarum belgicarum aut eorum vicariss decimam Partem Reventus Agrorum tum aratro tum ligone aliove cultorum medio; Pomariis, Hortisque oleribus dicatis Jugerum Hollandium, non excedentibus exceptis; aut decimarum loco pretium nobile postea constituendum tam diu quam diu possessores ejusdem agri futuri erunt.”

“Actum in Arce Amstelodamensi, in Novo Belgio die Julii, 9 Anno Christi, 1642.”

We have no evidence that the English acceded to these proposals; nor is it probable, considering their superior strength, that they ever did. On the contrary, they daily extended their possessions, and in 1643, the Colonies of the Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Connecticut and New-Haven, entered into a league both

***In English thus.—Conditions offered by the Director General of the States of New Netherland, to Messrs. Weyting and Hill, delegates from the honorable Assembly of Hartford.**

They shall annually pay to their high Mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands, or their deputies, for our territory at Hartford, the tenth part of the increase of their lands that are cultivated with the plow, spade, or any other means of cultivation; excepting such orchards and gardens for raising pot-herbs as shall not exceed an acre of Hollan measure; or instead of the said tenth part, a suitable consideration hereafter to be paid as long as they shall possess the said territory.

Done at the Fort in Amsterdam, in New-Netherland, the 9th day of July, in the year of Christ 1642.

against the Dutch and Indians, and grew so powerful as to meet shortly after upon a design of extirpating the former. The Massachusetts Bay, probably, from a sense of the impropriety of such an attempt without orders from England, declined the enterprise.

The Dutch had long beheld the increasing power of their neighbors with the utmost anxiety.

Governor Stuyvesant, an active and faithful officer, as is abundantly proved by his letters remaining among the Dutch records, in one to the West India company, dated the 20th day of April, 1660, laments the desperate situation of the affairs of New Netherland. "Your honors (says he) imagine that the troubles in England will prevent any attempt on these parts. Alas! they are ten to one in number to us, and are able without any assistance to deprive us of the country when they please." On the 29th of June in the same year, he informs them that the demands, encroachments and usurpations of the English, gave the people here great concern. "The right to both rivers (says he) by purchase and possession is our own without dispute."

While the affairs were in this situation, the English of New Haven and Hartford thought it prudent to apply to the Crown for a grant.

In their petition they set forth that they had obtained their possessions partly by purchase and partly by conquest.

King Charles the second, on their application by letters patent, dated the 23d day of April, 1662, granted them the Colony of Connecticut under the following description "Bounded on the East by Narraganset river, commonly called Narraganset Bay, where the said river falleth into the sea; and on the North by the line of the Massachusetts plantation; and on the South by the sea, and in longitude as the line of the Massachusetts Colony, running from East to West; that is to say, from the said Narraganset Bay on the East, to the South sea on the West part."

This being a Crown grant, on the suit and petition of the grantees, is to be taken most beneficially for the King. The descriptive words, and the intention of the grant, will, in legal construction, be satisfied by giving the Colony the same length as the Massachusetts Bay; and it is plain, both from the recital and the saving clause in the Plymouth Patent, on which the Massachusetts title was founded, that the latter could not, in any sense, extend to the Westward of Connecticut river.

It was understood in England in this light, and that it did not interfere with the Dutch Colony of New Netherland; for within only two years afterwards King Charles the Second, expressly granted all the country to the Westward of Connecticut River to the Duke of York; and that this grant was particularly designed to include the Dutch possessions, seems manifest from the circumstances which accompanied it. No sooner had it passed the great seal than an armament was equipped to subdue the Dutch, and the command given to Col. Nicholls, who came over both in quality of general of the expedition, and lieutenant governor under the Duke.

Governor Nicholls accordingly asserted his Royal highness' right to the country on the West side of Connecticut river, which immediately gave rise to a controversy between him and the corporation of Connecticut; but he thought it prudent to terminate it by an amicable negotiation. He found them already possessed of Greenwich and Stamford, two towns within 20 miles of Hudson's river; and that they had several other settlements not much more distant. His government was feeble, and chiefly consisted of the Dutch, upon whose attachment he had no reason to depend; and he foresaw the greatest difficulties if he should attempt to bring the Connecticut planters under subjection by force. Besides, when lands were of little value, it seemed more eligible to secure the friendship than to excite the resentment and hatred of a powerful neighbor. On these principles he recommended it to the Duke to relax from his rights, and to yield to them the part they then occupied. Such being his sentiments, a fruitless attempt was made for establishing a boundary between New York and Connecticut, in the first year of his administration. The proceedings and the mistakes so prejudicial to the Duke, into which he was drawn upon that occasion, as well as several of his letters to his Royal Highness, plainly prove that he had a very incompetent knowledge of the geography of the country, or of the rights with which he was intrusted. However, a final compact took place between the two Colonies, in the year 1683, when their respective commissioners agreed that a twenty mile line from Hudson's river should, for the future, become the partition between the Duke's territories and Connecticut; but

subject to the approbation of the King and the Duke. This agreement was confirmed by King William, on the 20th day of March, 1700.

That the line owed its foundation merely to prudential reasons, and was not grounded on the right of either Colony, is incontestible. The Duke claimed to Connecticut river,—Connecticut to the South sea. From pretensions so repugnant, there was no more room to fix on a twenty mile line from Hudson's river as the boundary, than on a line at the distance of 30, or 10, or 5 miles. A disposition to leave Connecticut in the possession of her actual settlements, for the sake of peace, preponderated, as was the true motive of the agreement. This is confirmed from the cession of Greenwich and Stanford, in favor of Connecticut, though they were within the twenty miles.

THE MASSACHUSETTS' CLAIM

stands by no means in so respectable a light as that of Connecticut.

We have already remarked, that the old charter was adjudged void. It was so determined in the high Court of Chancery in England, in 1684, and they submitted to the decree, and never took any measures to obtain a reversal; nor can their passivity be ascribed to the arbitrary councils of King Charles, since the revolution (which happened a few years afterwards) gave them the fairest opportunity to obtain redress, had they been injured: It seems therefore just to conclude, that they were convinced of the defects of their former grant, and thought it more for their interest to solicit and accept of a new charter, which they accordingly procured on the 7th day of October, 1691. That province is here described as follows:—"All that part of New England, in America, lying and extending from the great river, commonly called Memomack, or Merimack, on the North part; and from three miles Northward of the said river to the Atlantic, or Western sea, or ocean, on the South part; and all the lands and hereditaments whatsoever, lying within the limits aforesaid, extending as far as the outermost points or promontories of land called Cape Cod and Cape Mallabar, North and South, and in latitude, breadth and in length and longitude, of and within the breadth and compass aforesaid, throughout the main land there, from the said Atlantic, or Western sea or ocean, on the East part, towards the South sea; or Westward, *as far as the Colonies of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and the Naraganset country.*"*

These words (*as far as*) being in the case of grant of the Crown on the suit of the party, in legal construction, carry the Massachusetts Bay Colony no further Westward than till it meets the Colony of Connecticut, and not to Connecticut river, and much less to the Westward of it. And it is worth a remark, that Connecticut itself, at the time of the new charter, did not in the knowledge of the Crown, extend Westward of that river; nor did it, in fact, till nine years afterwards, when the agreement of 1683 was rendered effectual by the royal approbation.—Besides, it is contrary to reason to suppose that King William and Queen Mary could possibly have intended, by that charter, to diminish, or grant away any part of New York, which was a royal Colony, under their own immediate government, without express mention thereof in the charter, and without any notification to Colonel Slaughter, the then Governor, that the Crown had granted such a part of what was before within his jurisdiction, by their Majesty's commission.

Under circumstances so favorable to the rights of this Colony, we have great reason to complain of the unwarrantable encroachments under the authority of the government of the Massachusetts Bay, by which a valuable tract extending from Connecticut river, within 20 miles of Hudson's river, has been wrested from us.

Their conduct seems the more inexcusable, as they must have known that such encroachments were not only disrespectful to his Majesty's authority, and big with great mischiefs and disorders, but were highly injurious to private property, great part of these lands having anciently been granted to his Majesty's subjects, under the great seal of this Colony.

So long ago as the year 1635, King James the Second, by letters patent, under

* Note. This new grant recites that the old charter was vacated by a judgment in chancery, in Trinity term, 1684, and that the agents of the Colony had petitioned to be incorporated by a new charter.

that seal, granted to the Rensselaer family the Manor of Rensselaerwyck, extending from Hudson's river, both on the East and West sides, 24 miles.

Westenhook was granted under the great seal of this province, on the 6th day of March, 1705, and its Eastern bounds are about 30 miles from Hudson's river.

Hosick was granted on the second day of June, 1688, and extends above 30 miles from the river.

These several grants cover the country the whole breadth of the Massachusetts claim, and not only offer the highest evidence of the ancient right and jurisdiction of this Colony, as far as the controversy respects the Massachusetts Bay, but authorize a remark of no small moment, to wit: That with respect to the lands included within such of those patents as are prior, in point of time, to the Massachusetts charter of 1691, the Crown had clearly parted with its right under the seal of New York; and so far had no estate left to be disposed of, or upon which that charter could have operated, had its boundaries been ever so unquestionable and comprehensive.

As their example, and the agreement with Connecticut, are the only pleas which have ever been held up by the government of New Hampshire to justify their claims and encroachments, it seemed indispensably necessary to give a general idea of both.

Nor ought it to pass unobserved, that the Colony of New York has a double title to the country on the Wood Creek, and on both sides of Lake Champlain; 1st by the original grant to the Duke of York, which established Connecticut river as our ancient Eastern boundary, and which, without any alteration by the agreement with Connecticut, has continued such down to the present day. And 2dly, by the subjection of the five nations to the Crown of England by treaties with this government.

The submission of these nations took place so early as the year 1683, and is proved by several treaties between them, Col. Dongan and our other Governors, which are preserved in the office of the Secretary for Indian affairs; and at the trade and plantation office in England; and some of them in Mr. Colden's History of the five nations.

That the country on Lake Champlain belonged originally to the five nations is proved by all the ancient maps,* where we find the lake called Lake Iroquois, (the French name for the five nations) or Mere des Iroquois, and the river (called by the French Sorell) which leads from the lake into the river St. Lawrence, Rivier des Iroquois, and the country about the Lake Iroquisia.

This government accordingly discovered an early attention to their rights in that part of the country.

So long ago as the year 1696, a grant passed the great seal of this Colony to Godfrey Delliou, for a tract of land extending from the North bounds of Saratoga (which lies on both sides of Hudson's river, about thirty miles North of the city of Albany) to the Rock Rosian, a station indisputable, and which is well known to lie on Lake Champlain, and above twenty miles to the Northward of Crown Point. This tract extends twelve miles East of Hudson's river, and the same distance East from Wood Creek and the waters to the Northward; and it is worth a remark that such was its value and importance even that early day, that the legislature conceived the grant of it to be too great a favor for one subject, and passed a law in 1699, repealing it as extravagant.

The tract called Wallumcock, which reaches from the rear bounds of Saratoga Eastwardly so as to be upwards of 23 miles to the Eastward of Hudson's river was also granted under our great seal, the 15th day of June, 1739.

In short, the faithless encroachments of the French on Lake Champlain—their fortifying Crown Point and Ticonderoga—the many depredations they committed in concert with the savages in their alliance—the destruction of the frontier vil-

*Vide Ogilvy's America, published in 1671, and the map at page 168, Sect. Nieuw Nederlandt; and his account of Lake Iroquois (Champlain) and the river Iroquois, (Sorell) page 166.

See also the map inscribed Nova Belgica et Anglia Nova, published in xi vol. Geographiæ Blavianæ, in 1662, page 35.

And Johannis Van Keulen's Atlas, published at Amsterdam in 1720.

lages and settlements, and repeated massacres of the defenceless inhabitants, (which exhibited a scene of inexpressible horror and distress) have alone prevented the improvement and cultivation of this valuable part of the Colony.

Having thus, in general, established the right and the ancient exercise of jurisdiction of this government to the lands Westward of Connecticut river, the way is open to consider the principles upon which

The extraordinary claim of NEW-HAMPSHIRE is founded.

The council of Plymouth, on the 19th day of March, 1621, granted to John Mason their Secretary, a tract of land from Nuemkeag to Merrimack river. In the year 1629, they granted him a tract of land between Merrimack and Piscataqua river, sixty miles up each river, to be bounded on the West by a line across from river to river.

Both these grants were united and confirmed to Mr. Mason by a new grant from the council of Plymouth dated the 22d day of April, 1635, under the following description:—"A portion of main land in New England, from the middle of Merrimack river to proceed Eastward along the sea coast to Cape Anne; and round about the same to Piscataqua harbor, and so forward up within the river Newickawanock, and to the furthest head thereof; and thence North-Westward till sixty miles be finished from the first entrance of Piscataqua harbor; and also from Nuemkeag, through the river thereof, up into the land, West, sixty miles; from which period to cross over land to the sixty miles end, accounted from Piscataqua through the Newichawanock river, to the land North-Westward. And also all the South half of the Isles of Shoals, together with all other islands and islets, as well inbayed as adjoining, laying abutting upon or near the premises, within five leagues distance, and not otherwise granted by special name before the 18th day of April, 1635, the said tract or portion of land to be called and distinguished by the name of New Hampshire."

We have already observed that though the council of Plymouth claimed and granted the property, yet they never pretended to the right of delegating jurisdiction or the powers of government.

To remedy this defect, King Charles, by letters patent dated the 19th day of August, 1635, confirmed to Mr. Mason this grant or tract called New-Hampshire, with powers of government and jurisdiction as in the palatinate or bishoprick of Durham.

Thus was this little Colony established, comprehending no more than about twenty miles sea line in breadth, and sixty miles inland or in length.

Mason died in the close of the year 1635, and by will devised New Hampshire to John Tuston (to be called Mason.) John dying before he came of age, it descended to his brother Robert Tuston Mason, who was not of age till 1650. During his minority the Massachusetts government took the Colony, without any authority from the proprietor of the Crown, on its own disposal and protection.

Mason, after the restoration, petitioned King Charles the second for redress.—In 1675, a report, in favor of his title, was made by the Crown officers, and the King sent a mandatory letter on the subject to the Massachusetts Bay Government. Mr. Stoughton and Mr. Buckley being sent over as agents by that Colony to answer Mason's complaint, they, as attorneys legally constituted by the Massachusetts Bay Colony, renounced and disclaimed all right to New Hampshire; which being duly reported, was confirmed by the King and privy council the 10th day of July, 1677. But it appears that while Massachusetts Bay exercised jurisdiction over that Colony, they made no scruple to grant away the lands; for after their disclaimer, and the above mentioned order of the King in Council thereupon, all the grants they made beyond their boundary (to wit) three miles North of Merrimack river, were vacated by an act of Assembly of the Massachusetts Bay passed in the year 1679.

The Mason family, however clear their title, derived from it no advantage till the year 1748, when they recovered the land which remained vacant and unpatented by New Hampshire. The residue the occupants still retain.*

*The present possessors (says Doctor Douglass) have no other claim to their land than possession, and some uncertain Indian deeds. a Doug. 22.

This is a view of the title and limits of the Colony of New Hampshire as granted to Mason. Instead of crossing Connecticut river it did not reach it by twenty miles, and the lands, between its West bounds and the river, remained vested in the Crown and extra-provincial, till the year 1742,

That it remained vested in the Crown is incontestible, for although the council of Plymouth parcelled out part of their territories into several distinct Colonies or settlements, yet this tract was included in neither of them; it therefore reverted to the Crown on the surrender of the Plymouth grant on the 7th day of June, 1635.

Indeed originally the government of the Massachusetts Bay insisted that their grant extended from three miles North of the Black Rock, where Merrimack river emptied itself into the sea, when the charter was granted, to three miles North of the fork or crotch, where the river first receives the name of Merrimack; and from thence due West, which formed a parallelogram of upwards of fifty miles in breadth, to the Northward of their real boundary; comprehending not only part of those lands, but a considerable portion of Mason's.

This construction being thought unwarrantable, a contention arose between that province and New Hampshire, for the determination of which commissioners were appointed, on the 3d day of April, 1737, under the great seal of Great Britain. From their decree both parties appealed.

It is observable, that the question turned singly on the true place of beginning, and the course of the North boundary line of the Massachusetts Bay. Its length or termination, after striking the West bounds of Mason's grant, did not concern New Hampshire, nor could it have fallen under consideration.

The appeal was heard before the King and council, on the 5th day of March, 1739, and some time afterwards it was finally determined that the line should begin three miles North of the mouth of Merrimack river; and that a parallel to Merrimack river should be continued from thence, as far as the Fluxure at Pantucket Falls; and from a station three miles North of the Fluxure; or Falls, the line should run West ten degrees North, by compass to the New York East boundary.

The province of the Massachusetts Bay had formerly assumed jurisdiction over some land properly belonging to Connecticut. Several years before the above determination, to wit, in the year 1713, they gave Connecticut as an equivalent 105,793 acres, which they represented as a part of their vacant province lands. It was comprised in four distinct parcels, one of which containing about 40,000 acres, was situate above Northfield, upon Connecticut river, and to the Northward of the line established as above mentioned, for the actual boundary of the Massachusetts Bay.

An adjudication, so solemn and decisive, ought for ever to have extinguished all claim under the Massachusetts Bay to the lands to the Northward of that boundary; but since the confirmation, by the Crown, of the ancient right of New York, on occasion of the intrusions under New Hampshire, (in the manner hereafter related) a title is stirred up to those lands, on a pretence that they were originally a part of the Massachusetts Bay province. To justify this visionary claim, it is alledged, that at the time of submitting the dispute between the Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire to commissioners, it was stipulated by these Colonies that the decision should not affect private property.

But surely such a reservation can on no construction relate to any lands but what were controverted between, and claimed by both contracting parties; and the government of New Hampshire, at least, could not then have entertained an idea of a claim to the Westward of Mason's grant. To apply it, therefore, to what was never within the limits of either, and to suppose that New York, which comprehends it, and which was no party to the stipulation, should be bound by it, is so extraordinary, that a further refutation must be unnecessary.

To proceed: The old Colony of New Hampshire, or Mason's grant, had for many years been under the jurisdiction of the same governor as the Massachusetts Bay, but by a distinct commission.

While the dispute subsisted respecting their common boundary, the Assembly of New Hampshire preferred a complaint to the King and council against their Governor, charging him with partiality towards his more profitable government of the Massachusetts Bay. The complaint appearing to be well grounded, a separate Governor for New Hampshire was appointed.

On this occasion, a commission issued to Benning Wentworth, Esq. the first Governor, dated the 3d day of July, in the 15th year of the reign of King George

the second; and the old Colony of New Hampshire was greatly extended, so as to include a large district, which till then had remained extra-provincial and particularly the lands from the West bounds of Mason's grant, to the West side of Connecticut river, the ancient boundary of the Colony of New York.

It is thus described in the commission:—"Bounded on the South side by a similar curved line, pursuing the course of Merrimack river, at three miles distance on the North side thereof; beginning at the Atlantic ocean, and extending at a point due North of a place called Pantucket Falls, and by a straight line drawn from thence due West across the said river, till it meets with our other governments; and bounded on the South side by a line passing up through the mouth of Piscataqua harbor, and up to the middle of the river, to the river of Newichwanock, part of which is now called Salmon Falls, and through the middle of the same to the furthest head thereof, and from thence North two degrees Westerly till one hundred and twenty miles be finished from the mouth of Piscataqua harbor aforesaid, or until it meets with our other government."

Hardly can it be conceived that a boundary so plainly described could have become an occasion of controversy.

There was no room to suspect that the Crown intended to abridge any of the *old* Colonies in favor of the *new*; since without the most distant intimation of such a design, the limits of the adjoining governments are given as the extent of New Hampshire.

But neither the clearest evidence of right, nor the most explicit directions of the royal commission, have proved sufficient to protect us from the encroachments of New Hampshire, nor the mischiefs and confusion which are inseparable from a contention of this nature between two Colonies.

Governor Wentworth was pleased to conclude, that because Connecticut and the Massachusetts Bay Colonies had carried their Western boundary within twenty miles of Hudson's river, that, therefore, New Hampshire must be entitled to the same license.

His emissaries have since discovered another reason, which the Governor seems never to have entertained. They alledge

That in the year 1744, an order was sent from the Crown to the Governor of New Hampshire, importing, that if that government did not provide for Fort Dummer, there would be a necessity for annexing the Fort, with a suitable district of country, to the province of the Massachusetts Bay.

On this foundation are the boundaries of New York attempted to be circumscribed.

The argument drawn from our agreement with Connecticut is, it is conceived, fully refuted, by shewing, as we have already done, that the reasons and motives to which it is to be ascribed, were merely prudential and grounded on the claim or the boundaries of neither Colony, one having contended for the South sea, and the other for Connecticut river.

What then can be inferred from this treaty to the disadvantage of New York? If from generosity or policy, or for the sake of peace, part of an estate should be ceded to a contentious or importunate neighbor, is it to be construed into a surrender and extinguishment of the whole?

With respect to the Massachusetts Bay, we have shewn that they have no better title to the Westward of Connecticut river, than a possession acquired by force and intrusion, and which has proved the unhappy occasion of spilling the blood of the innocent, and terminated in despoiling a number of the inhabitants of this Colony of their rightful property.

This dispute was agitated between our respective commissaries, at a late treaty at New Haven, 1767, and where the Massachusetts Bay had the assistance of Governor Hutchinson, one of their ablest men, and the most conversant in subjects of this nature; and it is presumed that it must appear from a candid perusal of the proofs and arguments then offered, that the Eastern boundary of New York, upon Connecticut river, was clearly maintained.

It is our misfortune that the lands, which have so long been the subject of contention with that province, are fully occupied.* Hence, though firmly persuaded

* Upon these settlements one of their own historians makes the following candid remark, "A few years since, the General Assembly of the Massachusetts Bay was in the humor of distributing the property of much vacant province land,

that when the merits of the case should be considered for a final adjudication, the right of this Colony to that boundary must be evident; our commissaries from pacific motives, from a respect to the report of the lords of trade and plantations and to his Majesty's gracious recommendation of an amicable settlement, conceded so far as to offer a twenty mile line as a boundary; if his Majesty should think fit, by confirming it, to surrender his right of jurisdiction and property to so great an extent of country, in favor of a charter government.

But there is no necessity of enlarging upon this head, since it is apprehended that, independent of the considerations which it furnishes, a single reflection will of itself be sufficient to expose the weakness of every argument which can be deduced from the examples of the Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut, to countenance a similar claim on the part of New Hampshire.

And to place our remark in a stronger point of light, every thing contended for—that we agreed with the one, and sat down quiet under the intrusions of the other, of those Colonies, from a conviction that both had a clear right to a twenty mile line from Hudson's river, might safely be admitted; and these concessions after all could not in the least advance the cause of New Hampshire.

Let it only be remembered that the Connecticut charter is prior by two years to the first establishment of this Colony; that the Massachusetts original charter was much more ancient; and that both claimed an extent to the South sea; while, on the other hand, Mason's grant, the old Colony of New Hampshire, is limited to the precise length of sixty miles; which did not approach Connecticut river within twenty miles; and the commission to Governor Wentworth, by which it is enlarged, is so recent as the year 1742, and expressly bounds it (without specifying any dimensions) on his Majesty's other governments: Hence then arises a fatal distinction between the cases. Besides the important circumstance of boundary, priority of establishment is asserted on the side of the Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut; but with respect to New Hampshire in its present form, it is unquestionably in favor of New York. Upon the same principles, therefore, that the two former Colonies claim beyond Connecticut river, ought New Hampshire to be confined to its Western banks; and thus, instead of being favorable to the pretensions of New Hampshire, by a parity of reason, as has so frequently been urged, do those cases, rightly considered, afford a solid and decisive argument against the encroachments of that government.

As to the second objection, the order requiring New Hampshire to support Fort Dummer, it is necessary to explain the occasion of it.

The Massachusetts Bay government before the determination of their dispute with New Hampshire, and while they claimed the country to the Northward of the boundary then established, and on the East as well as West sides of Connecticut river, erected this Fort for the defence and protection of their Northern frontier, and as a barrier against the French and Indians of Canada. When they were restricted to their just limits, they became desirous to be eased of the charge of supporting it, and to lay the burthen upon their neighbors; they, therefore, made a complaint in the year 1744, to the ministry, in which they were pleased to represent, that this Fort had fallen by the then late determination of their boundary, within the government of New Hampshire which ought to support it. An assertion evidently calculated to prejudice the rights of New York, and to justify their own encroachments to the Westward of Connecticut river.

On this misrepresentation the order was procured, importing the sense of the Crown that New Hampshire ought to maintain Fort Dummer, or it would be—

“perhaps in good policy and foresight, to secure to the Massachusetts people, by possession, the property of part of some controverted lands.” 1 Doug. 424.

That the settlements did not take place without opposition from New York, is admitted by the same author. *“Anno 1726 (says he) some of the Massachusetts people, in settling Housatonick townships, were arrested to Albany Court, in an action of trespass against a grant to some Dutchman, from my Lord Cornbury, Governor of New York.”* 1 Doug. 417.

In fact the government of New York considered and treated the settlements which were made in that part of the country, both under the Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, as acts of violence and encroachment; and by a public proclamation, dated the 28th day of July, 1753, commanded the sheriff of the County of Albany to arrest the intruders, that they might be prosecuted and punished.

come necessary to annex it to Massachusetts Bay, with a suitable district of country.

These being the facts, we observe

That it is notorious that the government of New Hampshire paid no obedience to the order ; but the Fort, during the whole of that war, continued to be supported by the province of the Massachusetts Bay, and yet no land was added to that Colony, by way of compensation, as the order intimated.

From hence it is reasonable to conclude, not only that the government of New Hampshire was apprised that the Fort did not lie within their limits, and therefore gave themselves no concern about the order ; but that the mistake was discovered by the Crown, and that the Massachusetts Bay for that reason was never gratified by the addition of land they had reason to expect. Nor is it difficult to account for the mistake itself: the officer who framed the order must doubtless have apprehended that the Fort was erected on the East side of Connecticut river. A presumption which can only free it from the inconsistency to which it must otherwise be subject ; while with this explanation nothing could have been more just and equitable ; for, as we have already observed, the Crown had but two years before extended the jurisdiction of New Hampshire over a district of extra-provincial lands on the East side of the river ; if that government therefore refused to follow the king's directions, there was no hardship in annexing the Fort, supposing it to lie on the East side of the river, with a suitable district of country on the same side, to the province of the Massachusetts Bay.

This reasoning appears to be the more conclusive, because it cannot be conceived that the Crown could mean to abridge the limits of New York, on account of a Fort which they had never been required to support.

Besides, if the order was capable of being construed in the latitude attempted, it could never have altered or impeached the rights of this Colony. It was an occasional instruction in the military line, in which our jurisdiction was not had in contemplation, in which we were not considered as parties, and which related to two different governments, and was procured *ex parte*, on the suggestion only of one of them.

It is certain that a circumstance so unimportant made no impression on the late Governor Wentworth, whose station gave him the best opportunity of being acquainted with the means by which the order was procured, and the spirit with which it was dictated.

It will appear that he clearly apprehended the nature of his commission ; that the Western extent of his province depended on the limits of New York ; and that, till they were made known to him, he must be at an utter loss for the exercise of his jurisdiction.

Almost from the date of his commission, till the year 1748, we were at war with Spain and France, and there was no room to think of the cultivation or improvement of the country. The French of Canada found us full employment on our frontiers which were continually harassed and destroyed.

On the 17th day of November, 1749, Governor Wentworth apprized the Government of New York, that he was directed by the Crown to grant the unimproved lands of New Hampshire ; but that the war had prevented his progress therein. That the prospect of a general and lasting peace with the Indians had now encouraged people to apply for lands, and particularly for some townships in the Western part of his government, which would fall in the neighborhood of New York. He therefore transmitted a description of New Hampshire, as the King had determined it ; and desired to be informed how far North of Albany the Colony of New York extended, and how many miles to the Eastward of Hudson's river, to the Northward of Massachusetts line, that he might govern himself accordingly.

This was behaving with prudence and candor ; and happy would it have been for New York, had he continued to be influenced by the same temper.

His letter was communicated by the Governor to the council of New York, on the 3d day of April, 1750, with the extract of Governor Wentworth's commission, expressing the boundaries of New Hampshire ; and his Excellency having required their sentiments, they advised him to acquaint Governor Wentworth in answer to his inquiry, " That the province of New York is bounded Eastward by Connecticut river, the letters patent from King Charles the second to the Duke of York expressly granting all the lands from the West side of Connecticut river, to the East side of Delaware Bay."

This advice was accordingly transmitted to Governor Wentworth, by a letter of the 9th day of April, 1750; and one would think it must have proved satisfactory. He saw that the Colony of New York was limited by the original grant of Connecticut river. He knew that his government was but lately established, and bounded upon the neighboring provinces; but it seems his Excellency had no intention to give up the point so easily. He, therefore, in a letter to Governor Clinton, of the 25th day of April, 1750, acquaints him, that the information he had received from his Excellency, that it was the opinion of his Majesty's council that Connecticut river is the Eastern boundary of New York government, would have been entirely satisfactory to him, had not the charter governments of Connecticut and Massachusetts Bay extended their bounds many miles to the Westward of said river. That it being the opinion of his Majesty's council of that government, that New Hampshire had an equal right to claim the same extent of Western boundary; he had in consequence of their advice, before Governor Clinton's letter came to hand, granted one township due North of Massachusetts line, and by measurement 24 miles East of the city of Albany. He concludes with these expressions. "Al- though I am prohibited by his Majesty's commission to interfere with his other government, yet it is presumed that I should strictly adhere to the limits therein; and I assure you that I am very far from desiring to make the least encroachment, or set on foot any dispute on these points: It will, therefore, give me great satisfaction if, at your leisure, you can inform me by what authority Connecticut and the Massachusetts Bay governments claimed so far to the Westward as they have settled; and in the mean time, I shall desist from making any further grants, on the Western frontier of my government, that may have the least probability of interfering with your government."

This letter was communicated to the council of New York, on the 5th day of June 1750, who advised their governor, in answer to Mr. Wentworth's inquiry by what authority Connecticut and Massachusetts Bay governments claimed so far to the Westward as they had settled? to acquaint him that the claim of the Colony of Connecticut is founded upon an agreement with this government on or about the year 1684; and that the Massachusetts' settlements, so far to the Westward, were made by intrusion; and that it was probable that the township which he had lately granted, or some part of it, had already been granted by this government.

This advice was transmitted by letter from Mr. Clinton of the 6th day of June, 1750, which concludes with this passage. "From the information I have, there is reason to apprehend that the lands within the township you have lately granted, or part of them have been granted here. As my answer to your letter might probably have furnished you with objections against any grant which might interfere with this province, I am surprised that you did not wait till it came to hand before you proceeded therein. If it is still in your power to recall the grant, your doing so will be but a piece of justice to this government, otherwise I shall think myself obliged to send a representation of the matter to be laid before his Majesty."

Governor Wentworth's reply to this letter is dated the 22d day of June 1750; he informs Mr. Clinton, "That his Majesty's council of that Colony were unanimously of opinion not to commence a dispute with the government of New York, respecting the extent of the Western boundary of New Hampshire, till his Majesty's pleasure should be further known; and that they had advised, that he should on the part of New Hampshire, make a representation of the matter to his Majesty relying that the same should be done on the part of New York; and that whatever should be determined thereon, the government of New Hampshire would esteem their duty to acquiesce in, without further dispute, which he hoped would be satisfactory on that point."

He then proceeds to an apology for granting the township mentioned in his former letter; intimating that it would not have been done, had Mr. Clinton's first letter arrived in time; adding this memorable sentence. "*There is no possibility of vacating the grant, as you desire; but if it falls, by his Majesty's determination, in the government of New York, IT WILL BE VOID OF COURSE.*"

The council of New York, on the 24th day of July, 1750, approved of the expedient proposed by Mr. Wentworth; further advising that it would be for the mutual advantage of both governments to exchange copies of each others representations to his Majesty. And their opinion being communicated to Governor Wentworth by letter of the 25th day of July, 1750, this correspondence closed by Governor Wentworth's answer of the 3d day of September following, informing Mr.

Clinton, that the council of New Hampshire approved of the proposal that the representations to the Crown should be exchanged, as it might contribute to the speedy determination of the controversy, without expense on either side; promising to transmit Governor Clinton an authentic copy of his representation, as soon as it should be perfected.

From this relation, it appears that the government of New York acted with all possible candor and uprightness towards New Hampshire. That they gave all the satisfaction that could be expected with respect to their right; and although this was so clear and unexceptionable, cheerfully agreed to submit it to his Majesty's further determination.

It is to be wished that as much could be said in favor of the late Governor Wentworth. After engaging to transmit a copy of his representation to Governor Clinton, he changed his resolution, and forwarded it privately, without any notice to this government. It was contained in a letter to the lords of trade, dated the 23d day of March, 1750—1, but it was not until the 22d day of December 1752, that our Colony agent, by their lordship's directions, obtained a copy.

The representation, on the part of New York, was approved of and entered upon the minutes of the council, on the 18th day of October, 1751, and transmitted about the close of that year.

Within two years afterwards, complaint was made to this government of the encroachments under New Hampshire, on the lands and possessions of the New York grantees. It seems that the claimants of the township which Mr. Wentworth confessed in his letter of the 25th day of April, 1750, he had granted within 24 miles East from Hudson's river, were attempting to avail themselves of that grant.

Upon this occasion to maintain our jurisdiction, and prevent such encroachments for the future, the government of New York, on the 28th day of July, 1753, issued a proclamation for apprehending all persons, who should thereafter, under color of title from New Hampshire, take possession of lands granted by this province.

From this period the matter rested for some years; the incursions of the Indians immediately preceding the late war obstructing all new settlements, and the government of New York confiding that New Hampshire, after all that had passed, after being so fully premonished of our right, and agreeing to submit the determination without further controversy to his Majesty, would not have ventured to grant any more of the lands in dispute, until a final decision.

How much they were disappointed in these reasonable expectations remains to be shewn. But it would be improper to pass over in silence the claim of New Hampshire, as represented by Mr. Wentworth, since it may justly be concluded that if he had nothing substantial to offer in its support, it must be incapable of any vindication.

He aims at restricting both the Eastern and Northern limits of this Colony.

With respect to the Eastern boundary he relies—

1st. On the settlement between New York and Connecticut, at twenty miles distance from Hudson's river.

2d. He advances, as a fact, that the Massachusetts government *have allowed* New York to extend their claim also 20 miles East from that river, artfully representing their setting those bounds to their encroachments, as an act of favor and indulgence, when he was fully apprized that the government of New York complained of their possessing any of the country to the Westward of Connecticut river, as highly injurious.

3d. To prejudice the Crown against New York, he observes, that one Rensselaer claims 24 miles square on each side of the river: that it is a tract sufficient for thirty-two townships, of six miles square each, and comprehends more good land than any other subject enjoys in his Majesty's dominions; and yet that Mr. Rensselaer has not thought fit to contend with the Massachusetts Bay for the 24 miles. This is a strange exaggeration; the Rensselaer family are not indebted to the government of New York for their estate: they continue to enjoy it by an act of justice, and not of favor. It was originally a Dutch Colony of itself, granted to their ancestors by the Dutch West India company, who held it as a part of New Netherland, under the States General.

On the surrender, in 1664, their rights were secured to them, in common with the rest of the inhabitants, by the before mentioned article of the capitulation

granted on the surrender of the country, by Colonel Nicholls, the commander in chief under the Crown, and Lieutenant Governor under the Duke. The faith of government was pledged for their security; and their estates were confirmed under the seal of this Colony, in the year 1685, not by the mere act of the provincial Governor and council, but by an express order from King James the second.

Nor, though immaterial, is it true that the lands are good in quality, they are in general very indifferent. Not that no subject has so much good land: The Penn, Baltimore, Fairfax and Granville families have much more. Nor that the Rensselaer family have never contended against the encroachments of the Massachusetts Bay; for it is notorious that they have frequently solicited for the protection of government against those encroachments, and that more than once recourse has been had to arms, and blood been shed on that very account.

4th. Governor Wentworth, in his representation, further informs their lordships, that, presuming it would be his Majesty's pleasure that a North and South line should divide both the Massachusetts and New Hampshire from the government of New York, he had extended the Western boundary of New Hampshire as far West as the Massachusetts Bay had done theirs (that is) within 20 miles of Hudson's river.

This is again very uncandid. He puts New Hampshire upon the same footing as the Massachusetts, although he must have known there was not the least similarity in the cases; the Massachusetts government considering their first charter in 1628-9, as of force at the time of the Duke's grant, and therefore restrictive of its limits; but the King's commission which established New Hampshire in its present extent, being so recent as the year 1742.

Nor had he the least right to presume that the Crown would diminish New York, to enlarge New Hampshire; for which, it is conceived, no reason could possibly be assigned. Nor had he, as he asserted, extended the Western boundary of New Hampshire to a twenty mile line from Hudson's river. On the contrary, so far was he from having seized that part of the country, that he had just before solemnly assured Governor Clinton, in his letter of the 22d day of June, 1750, *that he and his council were unanimously of opinion, not even to commence a dispute with this government, respecting the Western extent of New Hampshire, till his Majesty's pleasure should be further known*: condescending, at the same time, to apologize to Governor Clinton, (who had threatened to complain of him to the King) for the grant of one township, by ascribing it to the want of timely information of the limits of New York, and by telling him that though it was impossible to recall that grant, *IT WOULD BE VOID OF COURSE if his Majesty's determination should be in favour of New York.*

5thly. In order to induce the Crown to abridge the Northern limits of New York, Governor Wentworth ventures upon this extraordinary assertion, (to wit) "It will be necessary to inform your lordships that the government of New York was founded upon a grant made by the Crown to the Duke of York, and that it was to commence at the sea, and run sixty miles North into the country, which line will cross Hudson's river, about twenty miles South of the city of Albany."

It is painful to remark, that in this passage Governor Wentworth pronounces as a fact, not only what was inconsistent with his own knowledge from the abstract of the Duke of York's grant, with which he had been furnished; but what it was in every man's power to contradict by evidence which could not deceive; the grant being on record both in England and New York.

True it is that the limits of New York depend entirely upon that grant. Except with respect to New Jersey, Connecticut and Quebec, they have never suffered the least alteration, but remain the same ever since it became an English Colony; all commissions and instructions from the Crown, presupposing the boundaries to be clearly established by that grant, and to be notorious.

Does it contain a single word of Mr. Wentworth's description, (to wit) "*Commencing at the sea, and running sixty miles into the country?*" On the contrary, after describing several tracts, it proceeds to grant Hudson's river, and *all the land* from the West side of Connecticut river to the East side of Delaware Bay, and clearly includes the country under consideration.

This is the nature of the New Hampshire claim, recommended and enforced with every advantage by Governor Wentworth, its author, who best knew the reasons which gave rise to it, and the principles upon which it was founded; and

it is submitted whether he has offered even the shadow of an argument in its support.

How then can his subsequent conduct towards New York be justified? No sooner was the conquest of Canada completed, and security, by that means, established in this part of America, than he reconciled it to himself to lay aside all restraint.

The country to the Westward of Connecticut river became an inviting object to many, and while the Colony of New York, (bound by the agreement with New Hampshire and the appeal to the Crown,) thought itself not at liberty to give them encouragement, Mr. Wentworth listened to applications from every quarter, and granted the lands without reserve.

Before this government had the least intimation of his intentions, he had, in the course of three or four years, patented upwards of one hundred townships, of six miles square each, dispersed over the whole face of the country, from the West side of Connecticut river down to the very borders of Lake Champlain.

But it was impossible such a plan could be executed without at length attracting the attention of this government; and it was no sooner known than they published a proclamation, dated the 23th day of December, 1763, stating the title and bounds both of New Hampshire and New York, as well as the many grants which the former government had unwarrantably issued; the attempts that had been made to settle under those grants, and the impositions which had been practiced on the inhabitants here by the sales of lands under the claim: To warn, therefore, the incautious from being longer deceived; to assert the right, and fully to maintain the jurisdiction of this Colony, all civil officers were required to exercise their respective jurisdictions and functions as far as the banks of Connecticut river, the undoubted Eastern limits of that part of the Colony. And the sheriff of the County of Albany, which then comprehended those lands, was enjoined to return to the commander in chief the names of all who, under the grant of New Hampshire, should hold the possession of any lands Westward of Connecticut river, that they might be proceeded against according to law.

About this time, Governor Wentworth's grantees, not contented with the vacant lands they had wrongfully usurped, began to enlarge their views, and to execute the design of seizing the estates and possessions of the inhabitants who, for many years, had been quietly settled under the title of New York: It was, therefore, thought highly necessary to solicit the Crown for the determination of a controversy which had been so serious and alarming.

Accordingly, on the 20th day of January 1764, the government of New York transmitted to the lords of trade a representation of the controversy, and of the proceedings of New Hampshire, and its emissaries, and urged the necessity of his Majesty's interposition.

The cause, soon after, upon the report of the lords of trade, came under the consideration of his Majesty in privy council, who was pleased on the 4th day of July following, to adjudge and determine "The Western banks of the river Connecticut, from where it enters the province of the Massachusetts Bay, as far North as the 45th degree of Northern latitude, to be the boundary line of the said two provinces of New Hampshire and New York." And to enjoin and require the respective governors and commanders in chief of his Majesty's said province of New Hampshire and New York, and all others whom it might concern, to take notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

That none might plead ignorance, the decree was soon after publicly notified by a proclamation of this government, inserted in the newspapers, and dispersed throughout the Northern parts of the Colony.

The nature of this royal adjudication has been greatly misrepresented.

In every question of boundary between two Colonies, the King, in privy council, exercises original jurisdiction, on the principles of feudal sovereignty. There can be no other tribunal.

The claims of New York and New Hampshire came judicially before his Majesty, by the authoritative acts of the governor and council of each, and by their mutual agreement and consent.

The question was not what bounds his Majesty would be pleased *thereafter* to establish between his two contending Colonies; but what were *then* the just extent and jurisdiction of each of them respectively.

The royal adjudication is accordingly expressed in terms which cannot be misconstrued; not directing that Connecticut river *shall become* the boundary be-

tween the two Colonies ; but declaring the Western banks of that river *to be* the boundary.

Thence it follows that this is a royal adjudication, in the dernier resort, on the very point of right, in favor and confirmatory of the ancient jurisdiction of New York ; and not a regulation of convenience and policy, by which an accession is acquired to its original limits.

Indeed, the latter cannot possibly be supposed. The occasion and nature of the appeal, as well as the clear and precise language of the decree, forbid it.

Soon after it was proclaimed, on the solicitation of the inhabitants, and for the better administration of justice, two new Counties, Cumberland and Gloucester, were erected out of the lands which had been claimed by the government of New Hampshire, and which had hitherto remained part of the County of Albany ; and Cumberland County is now, on the petition of its inhabitants, represented in General Assembly.

It is suggested that the government of New Hampshire, not satisfied with the final determination even of the Crown, have lately received their solicitations, and employed their influence to procure an alteration of jurisdiction by a cession of a considerable part of the late controverted territory in their favor.

But it is conceived there are many weighty reasons which stand opposed to such a measure.

His Majesty, in privy council, after fully considering the merits of both claims has already, upon the clearest evidence of ancient right, been pleased to ascertain the Eastern boundary of New York ; and it has the singular advantage of being distinguished and rendered obvious and unquestionable by a large river, instead of a simple line of marked trees which must be substituted in case of any innovation ; and which, in jurisdictions so limited, is ever productive of public detriment in the administration of justice, and private inconvenience with respect to property.

In the next place, in full confidence of the wisdom, justice, and stability of the decision, among others, a great number of his Majesty's military subjects, entitled (in reward of their services) to lands by virtue of the royal proclamation of the 7th day of October, 1763, have obtained grants, under the seal of this Colony, for a great part of the country upon, and to the Eastward of Lake Champlain, the Wood Creek, and Hudson's River. They all consider themselves as deeply interested in enjoying their estates under the present jurisdiction ; not only on account of the superior value and convenience of their lands while they continue a part of New York, but because, if they should be annexed to New Hampshire, a cloud will be raised over their titles, from an opinion which must in that case prevail, that in the sense of the Crown those lands never appertained to New York, and were appropriated without lawful authority.

Besides, as such an alteration would become an inlet to uncertainty of title, so must it entail upon the subject endless litigation and contention, and all the train of evils which are their usual concomitants ; and, in this scene of confusion, both the improvement, and the peace of the country, must be sacrificed.

Again, if the inhabitants, who will be most effected, are worthy of attention, their wishes and prayers must prove a further obstacle to any change ; a great majority of those who live in the Counties of Cumberland and Gloucester, having earnestly implored his Majesty that they may remain under the jurisdiction of this government, which they esteem a peculiar blessing and advantage. Nor is their solicitude without reason ; whether we consider the constitution of this Colony as more immediately copied after, and corresponding with, that of the parent kingdom ; or its easy and equal administration of justice ; its eminent advantage for commerce or the superior value of its lands ; in each of which respects, it is not excelled, if rivalled, by any of his Majesty's American plantations.

And lastly, it is conceived that no benefit can accrue to the Crown by the alteration which is sought after ; since the inhabitants of this Colony are surpassed by none in loyalty and attachment to our gracious sovereign, and in just and dutiful sentiments of government ; and since the royal revenue from the quit-rents, instead of being augmented, would be greatly diminished by restricting the ancient boundary of New York to enlarge New Hampshire.

Upon the whole, there seems to be too much reason to suspect that the advocates for an alteration of jurisdiction, are influenced by partial and sinister motives ; or

they could not, after so solemn and final an adjudication, desire what is inconvenient and impolitic in itself; injurious to the just and ancient rights of New York; and must not only prove hurtful to the interest of all who are possessed of property in that part of the Colony, but be productive of endless controversy, disquiet and confusion.

By order of the General Assembly,

JOHN CRUGER, *Speaker*.



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